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EGGS-TRAORDI

Believe it or not, a leading supermarket is already stocking Easter eggs – FOUR MONTHS before the day itself. Tesco in Whitstable stunned shoppers by replacing tinsel and baubles with eggs and bunnies. Shopper Leo Batt told Yourcanterbury: "I could not believe my eyes. Surely it is too early to be thinking about Easter?" A Tesco spokesman said: "This is in response to customer demand. Our main and full range of Easter eggs will not be launched for some weeks." Easter Day this year falls on April 12.

EXCLUSIVE

BY GARETH ARNOLD

A MASSIVE marketing boost has been planned for 2009 to improve the city's fortunes in the wake of poor sales over the festive period.

City council chiefs are holding talks with traders to fine-tune plans to help keep the tills ringing despite the gloomy economic forecast in a move which should also help boost trade in Whitstable and Herne Bay.

The move comes as shopkeepers count the cost of a New Year sales slump and a return of thrift and frugality.

City centre manager Philippe Esclasse said many shops had reported sales were down on last year, and that shoppers' spending habits had become more utilitarian.

He said: "Instead of fashionable shoes, people are buying sensible shoes. Instead of high fashionable shoes, and the other than the state of high sensible shoes."

are buying sensible shoes. Instead of high fashion clothes they are buying sensible, good quality winter clothes.

"It's the same with food. People are buying good, simple food instead of luxury food. People are only buying what they need."

Mr Esclasse said pre-Christmas trading had been particularly bad, despite many sales starting before the holiday period.

The first few days of the January sales — which saw discounts of up to 70 per cent.

which saw discounts of up to 70 per cent – were comparable to last year, but this has not been sustained.

Some clothing chains, including Monsoon, refused to comment on how specific stores were faring, citing commercial sensitivity, but confirmed the situation was difficult. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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See www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search the leisure channel.



Catch a glimpse of one of the infrequently spotted waxwing bird.

See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'waxwing'.

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EDITOR: Chris Britcher 01303 817171
GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032
WEBSITE: www.yourcanterbury.co.uk
TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110
FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

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HIGH ANXIETY: The site of the proposed beach volleyball courts (ringed) at Victoria recreation ground. Canterbury High School is at the bottom left of the picture

Petition targets 'minority sport' volleyball plans

CAMPAIGNERS have called on the city council to overturn its decision to grant planning permission for beach volleyball courts at the Victoria recreation ground in Canterbury.

A petition with more than 50 signatories has been presented to the city council, arguing that beach volleyball is a niché sport that does not warrant selling off the disused grass tennis courts they will replace.

The petition reads: "Please tell us where we can go to enjoy open space, to run and play with our children, grandchildren and pets and interact with other human beings?

"What gives you the right to take away free play from our children, especially low-income families?"

especially low-income families?"
Despite some complaints, councillors gave their blessing for the proposal in October after deciding it was "an improvement to the social wellbeing of the area".

The volleyball courts will be built on land which represents approximately one-fiftieth of the total area of the recreation ground. They will be run by Canterbury

They will be run by Canterbury High School, although five primary

BY **GARETH ARNOLD**

schools will also be able to use the courts free, and a pay-and-play scheme will be organised to make the courts available to sports clubs and the public.

and the public.

Land to build the four volleyball courts will be leased to Canterbury High School.

The petition also contains emails from teams which use the recreation ground, arguing that football should take precedence over less mainstream sports.

One anonymous email reads: "I cannot recall a single person I know who plays volleyball. There is a perfectly good venue at the university.

"The school and the headmaster make me angry. He is not considering the people of Canterbury at all. Football has always been a sport for all, young and old."

However the city council's approval of the proposal has led to the resurrection of the Canterbury City Volleyball Club, which plans to use the new courts as a base. A letter of objection was also

A letter of objection was also received from the Open Spaces Society, which argued that land should not be "hived off for a school sports facility".

Uncertainty fuels spending slowdown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

manager of the Ann Summers store said: "There just doesn't seem to be the volume of people seen in previous years. I don't know where they've all """."

gone."
Mr Esclasse suggested this year's restrained spending was due to concerns about the future.

cerns about the future. He said: "One of the biggest problems is the uncertainty. No experts have come forward to say what the future holds or when things will improve, so people are saving in case it gets worse."

Independent shops which cannot match the chains' heavy discounting are focusing on other strengths to see them through the tough times.

Michelle Ferrari, manager of Angels clothes shop in St Margaret's Street, said: "I have a good group of girls who listen to what customers want, then we can source it for them. We don't charge extra and it keeps people coming back. Larger shops can't do that."
Not everyone is reporting a bad month, however. Colin Garner, man-

Not everyone is reporting a bad month, however. Colin Garner, manager of Ecco Shoes in Mercery Lane, said: "We're doing all right, touch wood. It's not too bad at the moment.

"We have a strong reputation. People look for our shoes and we have a loyal customer base who keep coming back. But it is tough out there."

And there were still enough people to fill cafés and other businesses which rely on crowds attracted by the shops.

Jenna White, of Shake Shed in Sun Street, said: "Christmas was busy for us. However, there has been a clear difference in shopping patterns. Shoppers are being very careful not to buy unless the offer is too good to miss"

yourcanterbury

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stay safe, stay warm during the cold snap

HEALTH bosses in Kent have urged people to ensure they keep warm during the cold snap.

ing the cold snap.

Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS staff said children and older people were especially vulnerable.

Dr Robert Steward, the primary care trust's medical director, said: "People should aim to keep their main rooms heated to 21C (70F) while bedrooms should be kept above 18C.

"If you have older family, friends or neighbours nearby, try to pay them a visit to make sure they have everything they need."

More information can be found at www.nbsdirect.co.uk.



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Beaney dig ready to reveal city's secrets

BY GARETH ARNOLD

ROMAN artefacts are among the historic finds archaeologists expect to uncover when they begin a dig at the Beaney Institute later this year prior to redevelopment.

The three-month dig, costing £350,000, is expected to begin in April and experts are looking forward to uncovering centuries of Canterbury history buried beneath the iconic

Canteroury nursory buried beneath the itomic Victorian building.

Paul Bennett, director of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, said: "It is right in the centre of a very important part of the city.

"It is right next to the site of the Forum

Basilica, the most important Roman building in the city. We might make some very signifi-

We know the site was also in the centre of the Anglo-Saxon town, and at the heart of the medieval city, so this could be a very interesting

dig."
Exploratory trenches have already uncovered evidence of Roman roads and timber-framed buildings which the Canterbury Archaeological Trust says are probably medieval.

But despite the importance of the dig, experts say it is extremely unlikely the Beaney redevel-

opment project will be held up in any way.

Mr Bennett said: "It would have to be something really exceptional for it to be preserved in situ, and that would require substantial

"But I can't really think of anything that would warrant this. It has been planned in great detail, and we have agreed to preserve in



HIDDEN HISTORY: Canterbury Archaeological Trust has high hopes for the Beaney Institute excavation

record as opposed to preserve in situ. If we found a mosaic, for example, it would be taken up and displayed somewhere."

Archaeologists plan to dig several trenches on the site, with a deep excavation in the base-ment where it is hoped they will uncover Roman remains.

The site is important because it has been at the centre of the city for centuries and should provide a rich seam of new information about Canterbury's history

The Forum Basilica was the central market

place and law courts, and would have been at the centre of Roman life along with three other important civic buildings in the city – the baths (beneath Waterstone's book shop), the temple and the theatre.

The Beaney redevelopment project aims to conserve and enhance the late Victorian building, provide a new extension, and transform the range and quality of displays and services on

The Beaney Institute will close at the end of February and reopen in 2011.

'High-speed link of little benefit'

ABOVE-inflation rises in train fares have been attacked by local Liberal Democrats, who have accused rail firm Southeastern of misleading passengers over journey times.

Commuters who travel from Whitstable to London are facing an eight per cent increase in the cost of their journey into work.

Čanterbury and Whitstable Lib Dem parliamentary spokesman Guy Voizey said the increase was unjustified and claimed Southeastern was exaggerating the benefits of the new high-speed link

due to operate later this year.

He said: "Whitstable commuters are being asked to subsidise a service they will get no benefit from.

"A poster at the town station suggests a reduction in travel times of 25 minutes from 101 minutes, the average peak time, to 76 minutes.

"In truth, the average peak journey time today is about 84 minutes, based on the average into Cannon Street, a mere eight minutes slower than the anticipated fastest time with the new high-speed

VIEW THIS CLIP ON yourkenttv.co.uk Jour LOCAL TV ONLINE Football hub under threat? Full story pg 39. Search 'hub'.

Firefighters praised for brave battle

FIREFIGHTERS who tackled the fatal blaze at a Herne Bay residential home last week have been praised for their professionalism.

Crew members rescued an elder-ly man from his burning flat in sheltered accommodation in Churchill Avenue shortly after 10pm on Monday, December 29.

But despite their efforts to treat the victim, he died later in hospital. Steve Griffiths, Kent Fire and Rescue Service's assistant director of community safety, said: "Their extensive training was fully evident and although we are sadly reflecting on the death, the crews worked really hard in very difficult circum-stances to limit the loss of life and property."

wo appliances from Herne Bay and one from Whitstable were sent to the blaze, which is believed to have been started accidently.

After the rescue, crews administered oxygen to the man before handing over to paramedics.

Firefighters prevented the blaze spreading to other flats in the two-storey building.

Mr Griffiths said "The crews from Herne Bay did an excellent job in containing the blaze and reassuring the other residents."

Clean break with criminal past for iail work gangs

CONVICTS could soon be clearing the gardens of elderly and disabled council tenants in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

And they might also be sprucing up communal ground as part of a new plan to rehabilitate offenders.

The Active Citizenship Together project will see prisoners nearing the end of their sentences at Stamford Hill open prison on the Isle of Sheppey bussed out to perform work

in the community.

Head of housing Larissa Laing said: "There are lots of advantages. They can get a feel for what it is like outside an institution and meet people in a normal setting.

"They get a sense of worth from it and people in the community can see that the prisoners are not 'evil'.

"It also benefits the community as people are provided with low-cost

The idea has been piloted for the

last 12 months by Swale council and

the Swale Housing Association.

There have been no incidents where the prisoners have misbehaved and the scheme has won praise for its efforts.

Even so, a strict set of rules and procedures will be put in place to ensure nothing goes wrong.

Prisoners chosen for the scheme will all be serving the last 18 months of their sentences and have already earned the trust of staff inside the prison walls.

The teams of five will be supervised by prison guards at all times, and will only be allowed to work outside tenants' homes.

In addition, all tools will be locked away as soon as they are finished with and the prisoners will not be allowed to use blades.

A pilot scheme on council land is

expected to run in the Canterbury district until April.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Radio station marathon boosts children's charity

INVICTA FM has raised more than £15,000 for Help a Kent Child. The Whitstable-based radio station held a

marathon 13-hour show dedicated to raising funds for the charity, which helps disadvantaged children throughout the county.

Charity backers include Chris Tarrant,

Dave Lee, Paul McKenna and Greg Wallace.
DJ James Heming said: "I would like to
thank everyone who helped to make the day

such a success – the people who gave money and the celebrities who helped us."

Archbishop is bound to be bristling with pride

DR Rowan Williams has been named owner of the Beard of the Year 2008.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was named alongside Welsh singer Sir Tom Jones as owner of the finest set of whiskers

by the Beard Liberation Front.
The duo saw off competition from the likes of Prince William, comedians Bill Bailey and Eddie Izzard, broadcaster Robin Lustig and novelist Terry Pratchett.
Previous winners include Led Zeppelin's

Robert Plant and England spin bowler

Now cat's what I call a quiz night fundraiser

CANTERBURY Cats Protection is holding a fundraising wine and wisdom evening in Herne Bay this month.

It takes place on Saturday, January 24, at Hampton Primary School from 7pm. Tables of eight are available at £7.50 per person.

To book a table, send a cheque made payable to Cats Protection Canterbury Branch, together with an SAE, to: Cats Protection, PO Box 833, Canterbury CT1 1WH. Closing date for bookings is January 17. For more information call 01227

Words of wisdom from legendary TV star Clive

WRITER and broadcaster Clive James will be making a special appearance in

Canterbury next month.

The Australian intellectual will be at the Gulbenkian Theatre from 7.30pm on Saturday, February 21, for Clive James in the Evening. Tickets cost £16.

Other big names appearing at the theatre in 2009 include comedians Lucy Porter, Josie Long and Mark Thomas. Visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian for full listings of uncoming shows. of upcoming shows.

No more despair as Karl sees the light

BY GARETH ARNOLD

FROM homeless drug-user to aspiring Royal Marine, Karl's story is one of hard work and ambition overcoming drugs and despair - with help from Canterbury charity Porchlight.

Karl is 19 and lives at the Porchlight young persons' hostel in Canterbury. He the beginning of his problems to

when he started smoking cannabis. He said: "I had a circle of mates who were into cannabis. I got a part-time job at a supermarket which developed in to a full-

"However, the repetitiveness and a change in management got to me. I began wondering what I was doing there and started taking more and more cannabis, spending up to £40 a day. "The problem with cannabis is that when

you're not happy it makes things so much

Karl started on a downward spiral and after quitting his job things began to get out

He said: "I'd wake up about 2pm or 3pm, go out with my mates until about 10pm and come back really wrecked.
"That was the routine. The arguments

were building and building with my par-

"It's difficult anyway because my dad is disabled, he has a form of multiple sclero-



sis. He was diagnosed when I was eight. He walks like he is 80 years old but is only 50.

"They don't have much money because my mum is a full-time carer. They can't afford to keep me if I'm not working. It got to the point where I was £1,000 in debt with my mum, most of which I had spent on cannabis.

His parents eventually threw him out of Canterbury home and Karl found accommodation at a temporary night shel-

He was referred to Porchlight and five months later moved on to the young person's project where, with the support of his

key worker, he is turning his life around.

The support the charity is providing has helped Karl to focus on his Prince's Trust course, which has inspired him to pursue a career in the Army.

He said: "The career I am looking for now is a Royal Marine. I want to be a leader. I've only just got my confidence back.
"I believe I can do anything I want to do,

not like when I was at rock bottom.
"I genuinely believed I couldn't do any-

thing. It is quite easy to get influenced and get dragged down. You have to learn to back away and do your own thing.



BACK IN CONTROL: Karl's life is being turned around

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Relive 2008: Festival frenzy

CANTERBURY Festival again proved to be the cultural highlight of the year, attracting thousands of revellers and art lovers to what was one of its widest offerings yet.

The festival started in colourful style in

October, as more than 500 people joined in the fun of the opening parade through the

Our TV crew was there to record the remarkable sights and sounds as the parade snaked through the streets, from the Westgate to Dane John Gardens.

It started a remarkable string of events, ranging from performances in a giant big top, a specially commissioned play in the Cathedral and even a live link-up with the announcement of the Booker Prize literary award as local book lovers formed their own pressure groups in a bid to cheer one of the

nominated novels to victory.

Relive the fun on our site – and see if you can see yourself, family and friends. Simply log on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Canterbury Festival'.



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Canterbury SKIN AND LASER





SLOW PROGRESS: Whitstable's narrow streets are coming under scrutiny from transport bosses

Radical action planned to end town gridlock

MORE traffic wardens, a one-way system and a park and ride site could all be part of plans to improve Whitstable's struggling road system.

City council transport bosses will call on Kent County Council to investigate "radical" options to tackle Whitstable's traffic problems with a report to be presented to county chiefs this month.

The detailed report brings together several plans, some of which have already been piloted in the town, to tackle specific problems which can bring Whitstable to a standstill,

especially in the holiday season.

Limited parking and a lack of enforcement has led to narrow roads becoming clogged with cars, many illegally parked.

And the city council has also admitted the

Head of transport and engineering Viv Pritchard said: "The regulations were originally established to balance the needs of pedestrians, disabled people, businesses motorists, delivery companies and bus and coach operators.

"Given the very limited width of the streets in many areas, there is simply not enough room to allow parking and maintain a free flow of traffic."

To test one aspect of the plans, from June 2008, traffic wardens were stationed perma-

BY **GARETH ARNOLD**

nently in the town for 12 weeks, with instructions to take notes on parking habits and

enforce the rules where necessary.

They found a large number of drivers parked on double yellow lines and overstaying their time in loading bays.

More problems were caused by blue badge holders, who are allowed to park on double yellow lines but by doing so caused long tail-backs.

But introducing the wardens worked and parking problems decreased significantly. Now the city council is looking at increasing the presence of traffic wardens in the town, but says it must balance this against enforcing regulations in other areas.

A park and ride scheme is also being con-

sidered, but the city council is keeping tightlipped as to where and how this might be set

up.

The scheme hinges on cost and finding a suitable location. Detailed analysis has yet to be carried out, said the city council.

Making the town centre one-way would be

the responsibility of KCC's highways department, but this has been suggested to the county authority by the city council.

The report also details minor changes to parking regulations in the High Street and Oxford Street, and an increase in parking spaces due to use of the Oyster Bowls Club.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

yourkenttv.co.uk

BARE-faced cheek was the order of the day in June when 50 men and women stripped off to recreate one of TV comedy's classic moments. As part of Whitstable's Biennale art festival,

Relive 2008: Return

of Reginald Perrin

volunteers responded to the call of artist Lee Campbell to strip naked and run into the sea, recreating the iconic opening scene of 1970s sitcom The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin,

which starred Leonard Rossiter.
Find the clip by logging on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Reggie'.





yourcanterbury **NEWS** IN BRIEF

Still time to have a say on nature reserve plan

THE future of a Whitstable nature reserve is in your hands as consultation continues on Prospect Field – but don't delay in making

your voice heard.
Consultation on the Prospect Field draft management plan, which has been put together by the council and the Friends of Prospect Field, runs until Friday, January 9, and organisers are asking local people how the land should be managed.

Prospect Field is an area of scrub and grassland off Joy Lane. The site is a haven for wildlife and gives panoramic views across the estuary to Sheppey and, on clear days,

beyond to Southend on the Essex coast.

The plan outlines ideas for sensitively managing the site to benefit both people and

If you want to have your say, copies of the plan are available by calling Rosemary Selling on 01227 862577, by visiting the city council website at www.canterbury.gov.uk, or by popping into the town's council office or Whitstable Umbrella Centre.

Spending a penny to cost 10p at new Westgate loos

A BLOCK of 24-hour pay-to-use public toilets has opened in Tower Way, Canterbury.

The city spent £120,000 on the lavatories and users wanting to spend a penny will be charged 10p. The council says the fee will help reduce vandalism.

They replace the toilets opposite in St Peter's Place, which will be closed and removed next year as part of the Westgate Gardens improvements.

Cllr Jenny Samper, said: "By introducing a small charge we can provide the facilities around the clock, which is something residents have told us they want.'

Trade takes a hammering as three businesses shut

MOTORWORLD has shut its doors in Whitstable, adding to the woes of the town's

Woolworths closed for the final time last week, leaving one of the town's prime retail sites vacant. The lease will be sold off as part of a deal being negotiated by administrators

Motorworld cited rent problems for the closure of its Oxford Street outlet, while estate agent Dillinger Scott has paid the price for the decline in the property market by shut-ting its outlet, also in Oxford Street.

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Ashford	2°C	4°C	4°C	3°C	4°C	Gravesend	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Canterbury	1°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	2°C	Maidstone	2°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Chatham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Ramsgate	1°C	4°C	3°C	3°C	2°C
Dartford	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Rochester	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Dover	2°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	Sevenoaks	1°C	2°C	3°C	2°C	3°C
Faversham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Sittingbourne	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C
Folkestone	2°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	3°C	Tonbridge	2°C	3°C	5°C	3°C	4°C
Gillingham	2°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	4°C	Tun Wells	$2^{\circ}C$	3°C	5°C	3°C	4°C
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WEEKEND

Saturday	11.54dff1	1118.0
Sunday	12.30am	6.lm
Saturday	10.04am	6.4m
Sunday	10.58am	6.6m
Saturday	9.52am	7.3m
Sunday	10.47am	7.6m
Saturday	10.31am	4.8m
Sunday	11.26am	5.0m
Saturday	11.31am	5.6m
Sunday	12.27am	5.8m
Saturday	11.37am	5.2m
Sunday	12.38am	5.4m
	Sunday Saturday Sunday Sunday Saturday Sunday Sunday Saturday Sunday Sunday Sunday Saturday Saturday Sunday	Sunday 12.30am Saturday 10.04am Sunday 10.58am Saturday 9.52am Sunday 10.47am Saturday 10.31am Sunday 11.26am Saturday 11.31am Sunday 12.27am Saturday 11.37am



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	-1°C	Madrid	3°C
Athens	13°C	New York	2°C
Barcelona	9°C	Paris	-1°C
Beijing	-1°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	27°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	3°C	Tokyo	10°C
Gibraltar	14°C	Vancouver	3°C
Hong Kong	21°C	Warsaw	-11°C
Las Palmas	18°C	Wellington	19°C

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kitchen blaze warning

FIREFIGHTERS who attended 12 kitchen fires over Christmas are appealing for homeowners to take more care when cooking as we go into the New Year.

The blazes occurred between December 20and 29, with more than half taking place on

Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
Kent Fire and Rescue Service's head of community safety Stuart Skilton said: "Fortunately no-one was injured, although several homes sustained smoke damage and without working smoke alarms fitted the consequences could have been far worse.

"Unattended cooking, overheated oil in chip pans, deep fat fryers, along with dirty ovens and grill pans are the main causes of cooking fires.
"A moment's distraction, especially if under

the influence of alcohol, could find you faced with a serious fire that could take your home

Horses victim of crunch

THE recession has seen Canterbury's Horse Rescue Centre swamped with calls after cashstrapped owners can no longer afford to keep their animals.

Canterbury Horse Rescue in Shottenden Road, Badlesmere, is already struggling to cope with the number of



unwanted horses and ponies, and expects things to get worse this year.

things to get worse this year.

Yard manager Stella King said: "We are completely full and have a waiting list. My phone hasn't stopped ringing, it has been that bad.

"Financially people are mortgaged up to the

hilt or they are being made redundant. What comes first – the horse or the home?"



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER LISA WELLS



Can you tell us about your role as fund-raising support assistant?

My main duties as FSA are to provide support to two fund-raising managers and ensure the office runs smoothly.

Often I am the first point of contact, so I meet a diverse range of people. On a typical day I'll speak to volunteers such as committee members or our schools speaker, Macmillan staff and other supporters who may be doing anything from sponsored slims to running marathons to raise money.

I am also responsible for thanking donors and banking donations, writing press releases for our website, providing admin support during local and national events and solving practical problems in our office.

Every year, Macmillan holds collections at Tesco and Morrisons stores across Kent. I helped co-ordinate the Tesco collections in October which raised more than £16,000. Recently I have been working to deliver the same success at our Morrisons collections.

It is a varied role with lots of opportunities to meet supporters and attend events. It is challenging and demanding — no two days are the same — but also very rewarding.

Is working for a charity something you planned to do?

After university, I found it extremely difficult to find a job without having real business experience.

It wasn't until a friend offered me some work experience at a charity called the Riverwood

Project that I decided I'd really like to pursue a career within the charity sector.

I approached Macmillan as a volunteer but was lucky enough to be offered a full-time position at the Kent office.

Tell us about Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan provides practical, medical, emotional and financial support to people affected by cancer. We have set ourselves the ambition of reaching and improving the lives of everyone living with cancer by 2010

of everyone living with cancer by 2010. At a local level we have more than 100 Kent-based Macmillan nurses, doctors and other health professionals such as our dietician and speech and language therapist, who have the expert knowledge to help make living with cancer easier.

In 2007, Macmillan gave more than £210,000 in small grants to about 600 Kent cancer patients. These grants can help cover the cost of transport to hospital, a warm duvet, or even a much-needed family holiday.

Mhat is it like to work for such a worthwhile cause?

It's a charity that is close to my heart and I'm sure this is the case for many people. I am always greeted very positively because people are so interested in the charity and want to support such a good cause.

Can you give us some examples of fund-raising events or activities that you have helped to organise?

When I started with Macmillan in May 2008, I was involved with a sponsored walk at Penshurst Place, just four days prior to starting.

I helped as much as possible, putting together packs for the Army cadets and helping with admin for the day. It was great to see the team in action and to introduce myself to our supporters and volunteers.

I am very involved with our Medway group, which raises funds solely for the Macmillan Cancer Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital in Gillingham. We organised a fund-raising day in October

We organised a fund-raising day in October which made £500. I support the group by raising awareness of events, providing fundraising materials and sourcing raffle prizes. Our Christmas fair included a perfume tombola from John Lewis. We raised more than £1,000, which was fantastic.

In September I hosted my own coffee morning as part of Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. I organised games, raffles, food and drink. We raised £559.

What is the highest amount ever raised from an event?

The highest amount I have received was £10,832 from the Rochester and Cobham Park Golf Club.

The captains at the club chose Macmillan as their charity of the year and worked tirelessly to produce this fantastic amount. The money was collected through fund-raising days, raffles, a hog roast and a silent auction.

Fund-raising support assistant Lisa Wells speaks to **Nick Ames** about the amazing work done by Macmillan nurses and why they need our help in easing the burden of people living with cancer

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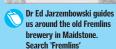


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Kieran Renihan, from Deal, reveals how to make natural chocolate. Search 'chocolate'



County MP Damian Green talks about what a new president means for America. Search 'Damian'



Hurtling down the Cresta Run, Chatham, to the music of Queens Of The Stone Age. Search 'Cresta'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Water shortage fears for the Kent desert

BY NICK AMES

KENT falls into a part of the UK which has less water per head of population than that available to the inhabitants of largely desert countries Morocco and Egypt.

The county is one of the areas of "serious water stress" identified in an Environment Agency report on the state of the nation's supplies which states that in the event of a hot dry summer rationing and hosepipe bans would inevitably come into force.

The survey warns that many lakes, estuaries and rivers are drained so quickly to provide fresh water for Britain's growing population there is a danger to wildlife and public supplies during dry years.

The Environment Agency says people are still wasting too much water in their homes, while water companies are allowing supplies to escape from leaking pipes.

to escape from leaking pipes.

It calls for the speedier introduction of water meters such as those introduced in Folkestone and on Romney Marsh – and for more reservoirs and desalination plants to be considered only as a last resort.

Trevor Bishop, the head of water resources, said: "We are trying to change the way we manage water resources and put in place the right resorting for propole to use less water."

right incentives for people to use less water. "There are three main ways – metering of customers, tackling leakage and more water efficiency in the home."

According to the agency, homes with meters use 13 per cent less water than those paying fixed water rates.

Mr Bishop added: "We are calling for meters, but done in the right way."

The report says the pressure is greatest in the South East and warns that the risk of water shortages, hosepipe bans and other restrictions will increase in the next few decades.



LOW: Water levels have dropped at Bewl, meaning supplies have to be supplemented from other sources

"Over the next 30 years, there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development," it states.

"Looking further ahead, the impact of climate change could have a major impact on the water available for all uses."

Computer forecasts of climate change suggest winters will be wetter on average in Britain but summers will be drier, particularly in the South East.

Compared to the rest of Europe, water resources are under greater stress only in drier countries such as Cyprus, Malta, Spain and Italy, the report added. In recent years hosepipe bans have been

In recent years hosepipe bans have been introduced in the summer across much of the county and supplies — including those drawn from Bewl Water — have had to be supplemented by river water from the Medway.



MEATY: Chris Rook (centre) presents Florence Neves and her son Michael with their festive hamper.

A prize turkey

ONE lucky KOS Media reader had a tasty Christmas to remember after winning a food-lovers' competition in our newspapers.

Butcher JC Rook and Sons, which has shops across the county, offered a luxury hamper worth more than £1,000 to make sure the winner enjoyed the festive period in style.

More than 2,500 readers entered competition, but it was Florence Neves and her son Michael from Sittingbourne who took home the turkey.

home the turkey.

Other tasty treats included Kent-reared beef, pork and lamb, a goose, smoked salmon, cheeses, cakes, biscuits and of course wines, whiskey, brandy and port.

Drop in stab deaths

FIVE people were stabbed to death on the streets of Kent and Medway last year, new figures have revealed.

The Conservatives found that the number of fatal stabbings in England and Wales during 2007-08 had reached a record high with five people a week nationally losing their lives to knife crime.

Figures for Kent Police showed five people had been killed due to knife violence in 2007-08 down from six in 2006-07

2007-08, down from six in 2006-07.

James Brokenshire, the shadow home affairs minister, called for the offence of knife possession to carry an automatic jail sentence.

"The Government's only response is short term, ad-hoc police operations, the results of which they spin and manipulate anyway to try and get a good story, 2009 must herald a new approach."









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Fears for furry friends amid 'serious decline'

BY NICK AMES

A THIRD of mammals in the UK – including many species regularly encountered in the Kent country-side – are in "serious decline", a disturbing report has revealed.

Dormice, water voles and harvest mice are among the creatures under threat, the State of Britain's Mammals survey warns.

And even the hedgehog – once a common visitor to many gardens – is under threat because of fewer hibernation sites.

The industrialisation of the countryside, the rise of invasive predators and modern farming techniques are to blame for falls in the numbers of about 40 species.

The report reveals that the number of water voles – a species immortalised by Ratty in The Wind in the Willows – has fallen by 88 per cent in the last 25 years.

They have been devastated by American mink that have escaped from fur farms.

Vazel dormice populations have fallen by 23 per cent the report, written for the People's Trust for Endangered Species, found.

The list of animals most at risk now includes 18 species – or 30 per cent of all land mammals in the UK.

Chief executive Jill Nelson said although hedgehogs remain a relatively common sight in gardens across the UK, their numbers have



RESTLESS SLEEP: Dormice numbers have declined by almost a quarter in recent years, according to the survey

fallen by a fifth since the early 1970s.

The fashion for neat gardens has robbed them of hibernation hideaways, while they have also been hit by loss of habitat, disease and changing climate.

Mrs Nelson said: "With population numbers of between one and three million there are

plenty of hedgehogs around, but fewer than there once was. They seem to be more prevalent in urban areas now because of changes in agricultural practices.

"When we hear people saying they are not seeing them in their gardens as much as they used to, you start to worry."

Partnership's protection is always there for victims

KENT Police are working with the National Centre for Domestic Violence to provide victims with access to legal representation 24 hours a day all year round.

sentation 24 hours a day, all year round.

The partnership was launched at Kent Police College with Chief Superintendent Lee Catling, centre chief executive officer Steve Connor and local solicitors present.

Lee Catling, centre chief executive officer Steve Connor and local solicitors present. The National Centre for Domestic Violence gives free legal advice and representation to victims of domestic abuse and helps them obtain court non-molestation orders, also known as injunctions.

An injunction stops a violent or abusive partner or ex-partner from using or threatening violence.

Chief Supt Catling said: "This partnership will help police officers in protecting victims and their families from abusers.

"Police and public protection unit officers will be able to refer victims to the centre for advice, which will help them start to rebuild their lives free from violence and abuse. Officers will be able to help victims seek free legal advice quickly.

"It is a criminal offence to breach nonmolestation orders and we will arrest anyone breaching court orders."

Mr Connor said: "Domestic violence is a

Mr Connor said: "Domestic violence is a cowardly crime. Our partnership with Kent Police will give anyone needing legal advice or an injunction fast access to our service, which is free to all regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or financial circumstances.

"By standing together, we will send out a message that this horrific crime will not be tolerated and that we will work to bring abusers to justice."

The centre is able to offer assistance at

The centre is able to offer assistance at court using a 'MacKenzie friend' – a person who can offer legal advice – to accompany victims throughout proceedings. Leaflets publicising the partnership and the new services available in Kent and Medway are on display around the county.

'Missing' registered sex offenders revealed by FOI request

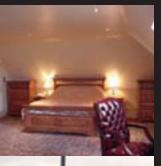
THIRTEEN registered sex offenders have "gone missing" in Kent, according to figures obtained by the BBC.

The broadcaster requested information about offenders who are not now at their reg-

istered address under the Freedom of Information Act. Data supplied by 38 police forces across the UK showed 317 sex offenders were reported as missing or unaccounted for.

were reported as missing or unaccounted for. The largest number of missing offenders was reported by the Met in London, where 112 have disappeared. Other forces with high numbers missing include the West Midlands with 34, Greater Manchester (18), Northumbria (12) and Sussex (10).

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BREAK TIME

Singing cricketer bowls over school

ZIMBABWEAN cricketer Henry Olonga proved a popular guest of honour at St Anselm's presentation evening where he presented prizes and GCSE and A level certificates to students.

Mr Olonga sought to inspire students with a speech about the value of education and the importance of aspiration and hard work.

He focused on his time in Zimbabwe as a cricketer and his eventual exile for his stand against the political regime in



Zimbabwe.

And the multitalented sportsman, who is now
pursuing a career
in singing, even
performed a rendition of Nessun
Dorma which so
impressed the
audience that he
received a standing custing

ing ovation.
St Anselm's
headteacher Fiona Quilty said: "Mr
Olonga represents much of what we
stand for here at St Anselm's Catholic
School. We are a school who cares about
diversity, equality, justice and courage in
the face of adversity.

"Our students represent many nationalities found in Britain today including Zimbabwe, and as a comprehensive school we welcome students of all backgrounds and abilities.

"We work to inspire our students to go on to achieve great things, not just for themselves but for society. Henry Olonga is a real inspiration and role model for our students. We also wish him well in his singing career."

Mr Olonga was the first black cricketer to play for Zimbabwe, and made his international debut in a match against Pakistan at Harare in 1995, at age 18 years, 212 days; becoming the youngest player to represent the country.

Innovator shows drive with design

BY **GARETH ARNOLD**

REINVENTING the wheel secured a Canterbury student first prize in a prestigious competition run by the Kia car company.

Matthew Storie, a student at the University for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, impressed judges with his plans for a light, ultra efficient wheel focused on functionality and sustainability.

Mr Storie, 18, who is studying for a BTEC national diploma in art and design, walked away with £1,000, a Sony camera, and a fully funded trip to one of the major international motor shows.

He said: "I entered the awards to see if my

He said: "I entered the awards to see if my ideas could stand up to the car industry and was amazed when they called out my name, as this now gives me the confidence to follow my dream of working as a designer within this industry."

Second prize was won by Maidstone student, Aaron Macdermott, a first year student in animation, for his innovative 'pod' transport system which addresses traffic congestion, pressure on public transport systems and the cost of car ownership. He won £1,000 cash and a Sony Walkman.

Third prize went to Julia Johnson, a product design sustainable futures student from Farnham, for her design of a sustainable headrest. She won £750 and a Sony Walkman.



THE BEST: From left: Aaron Macdermot, Matthew Storie, Steve Kitson of Kia Motors and Julia Johnson

Steve Kitson, communications director at Kia Motors said: "The opportunity to encourage and support such imaginative and passionate young people is a privilege for us at Kia Motors (UK) Ltd and this year the standard of work was outstanding.

dard of work was outstanding.
"These are the people who will design our future world and environment and it is reassuring to see such creativity."

Kia Motors are the main sponsors for the Let's mUve' competition, which aims to make students challenge the conventional conceptions about the design, functionality, image, branding and sustainability of cars.

The awards are in their fourth year and run throughout the University for the Creative Arts five campuses as part of the Creative Innovation Award.

Send your schools news and pictures to yourcanterbury@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

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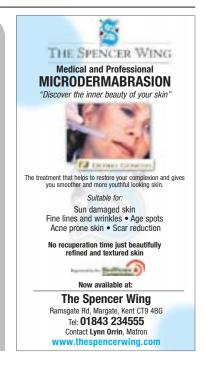
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yourcanterburyblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Canterbury...

Resolution escalates into a cross training experience

I'VE never really been one for making New Year's resolutions.

I always felt there was nothing to be gained from choosing this particular month for making life-changing decisions. Surely it is best to make these kinds of promises to yourself when you really feel like it?

Having said that, I have succumbed to the common mantra of keeping fit this year; I have even bought an exercise machine. I got the Carl Lewis Cross Trainer second-hand; perhaps in the knowledge it was not worth forking out huge amounts of money on something that was likely to end up in the back of a cupboard or 'accidently' left at a roadside lay-by.

I bought the instrument of torture from a nice man in Sittingbourne. Well, he was certainly smiling when he saw me coming. It was probably just a sense of relief that he did not have to look at the damn thing for another year, nagging away at his conscience. He proudly said he had only ever used it twice. At least now he has 50 quid in his pocket and

could get some exercise walking to the pub.

I have used the machine more than twice. Three times in fact — and that's three times more than I imagine Carl Lewis ever did. The first time, I stumbled off the pedals as it sent my arms and legs flailing in different directions, ripping my hamstring in the process. The second time I stopped after three minutes because my heart rate was going so fast the pulse detector couldn't keep up. It can deal with anything up to 160 beats per minute but once you go past 300 it just becomes a blur.

I am beginning to believe only three Carl Lewis Cross Trainers were ever made. One for the picture in the catalogues, one demonstrated on TV shopping channels and the third was actually bought by a man in Chelmsford back in 1996 and has since made its way, through numerous owners, to end up in my spare room getting in the way of the filing cabinet.

My other resolution is not to go to the video shop unless I know what I want to watch. On one recent trip I spent nearly an hour in the shop deliberating over some worthy art film, only to discover it was being shown on BBC2 that night. And it was rubbish. $\,$

Talking of films, I must stop watching Star Wars. In the last 12 months my habit has reached junkie levels. I blame the invention of the DVD box set. Sunday afternoons are the worst. I get this terrible craving and I have to get my fix – even if just for five minutes. Then I watch it again when the films are shown on ITV because the picture is slightly bigger and my failing eyesight can see more of the feeble CGI of the dreadful prequels. Before Christmas I actually asked my partner to get me the Clone Wars cartoon; the one done in a drawing style which gives all the characters the physique of Masi Warriors – even Jabba the Hut.

So this year it's less couch surfing in a galaxy far far away and more working out on a do-it-yourself escalator that doesn't go anywhere.

 EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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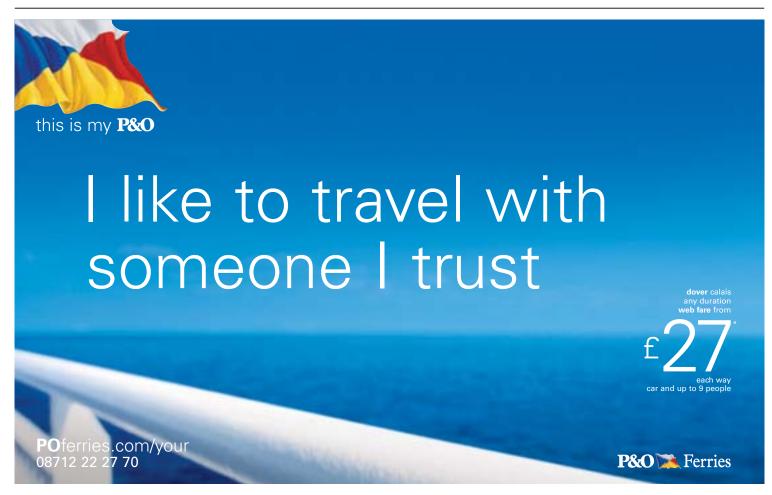
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Chris Britcher, on 01303 817171 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to

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yourcompetition

Sail to the sales to snap up les bargains

announced today as the first day of the winter sales in the areas closest to the UK - le Nord, Pas de Calais and Aube.

French shopkeepers are strictly regulated when it comes to what they can call a sale. Just two are permitted a year, one winter and one summer, and reductions must be on normal stock. Buying stock in bulk and slapping a sale sign on it is a big non, non in France

Discounts are generally between 50 and 70 per cent and 'Solde' is the key sign to look out for as it confirms items are in one of the formal sale periods. Degriffe' or 'Remise' followed by an amount shows the mark-down or discount

Whilst 'Promo' or 'Promotion' signs are widespread they refer to just that: the sort of spe-

cial offer promo a retailer can run at any time. We've teamed up with P&O Ferries to give three lucky families a chance to bag some bargains by winning daytrip tickets for a car and passengers on the Dover-Calais route.

Taking your car to France couldn't be easier. Driving on board takes just minutes and the bargains begin right away as P&O Ferries offers savings across drinks, perfumes, cosmetics, jewellery, confectionery and gifts.

The crossing takes 90 minutes and on arrival, the 4 Boulevards shopping complex in the heart of Calais includes a hypermarket, large H&M and gallery of 50 shops. Nearby are the shopping malls and hypermarkets of Citie Europe and Marques Avenue.



P&O Ferries has up to 25 return sailings every day on its Dover-Calais service, so

every day on its Dover-Catals service, so there's always a sailing to suit. For further information or to book visit www.POferries.com or call 08716 646464. To enter, simply answer the question below

and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to P&O Ferries Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is January 14, 2009.

Question: What do the French call the sales? A) Les Ferdinand B) Les Dennis C) Les Soldes

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Prizes cannot be extended and are only valid on the Dover-Calais route operated by P&O Ferries. Prizes cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Height/ length/width/weight restrictions apply and prize crossings

are subject to space availability. Prize valid until December 31, 2009. No cash or other alternatives for any of the stated prizes will be offered. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Neither P&O Ferries' employees and their relatives nor employees/relatives of KOS Media are eligible to enter the competition.

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P&O Ferries reserves the right in unioreseen circumstances beyond its control to change these rules or alter this promotion at any time without prior notice.

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restricted space and availability. Prizes are not transferable



yourletters



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TALK TIME

TREMAINE HEYDON-MEYER

The Alzheimer's Society Thanet & Canterbury branch worker talks about the charity's work and a Christmas donation they received.



What sort of work does the Alzheimer's Society do?

This branch offers support and advice to people suffering from Alzheimer's, as well as their carers. We run a local support line and website for people to get in touch.

The branch is funded entirely by donations and staffed by volunteers.

You recently received a large donation from the ladies section of the Westgate and Birchington Golf Club; how did that come about?

Way back in the summer, this branch had a table of information and a banner at a special day for the ladies section of the Westgate and Birchington Golf Club.

I attended and gave them a talk about our branch and the things we do to help support local dementia sufferers. Margaret Potter was the then ladies' captain.

They kindly chose us as one of their charities to donate to last year, and in December I met some of the ladies again when I attended a cheque presentation to receive a donation of the fantastic sum of £1,121.45, with the same

amount being given to the Macmillan Nursing Service.
This branch would like to express our grateful thanks for this wonderful donation which will be put to good use in support of local people.

· For support and advice from the charity, contact the Thanet & Canterbury branch of the Alzheimer's Society on 01227 730000 or see their website at www.dementiasupport-thanet.co.uk

YOUR LETTERS



Woolies demise may save others

While I must admit, I believe Woolworths had its day, what a sad sight it was to walk through Canterbury and see the store deserted last weekend.

Its collapse stands as testament to anyone who believes failing to keep up with trends is a way to run a successful business. Yes it struggled in these troubled times, but it must have been taking on water for ages to sink so quickly.

The death of Woolworths will, hopefully, lead to others living to fight another day on our high

G Hurst

Staff were a last piece of magic

I would just like to say, through your pages, a very big thank you to the staff at Woolworths

yourcanterbury.co.uk blasted for fare increase

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.vourcanterburv.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online

To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourcanterbury.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Canterbury as well as our villages.

We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourcanterbury before you've picked up your copy, you never

On www.yourcanterbury.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions

who continued to serve customers with a smile on their faces during my frequent visits to the store this Christmas. They were the last remaining piece of magic in that store. And they will be very sadly missed.

Whitstable

Goodbye to a national institution

What a shame to see so many Woolworths now closed forever This national institution will

not be the last to go when it comes to high street stores and I forecast things will be a lot worse

before they get better in 2009.

Let's hope the Government adopts a few policies which tackle the long term implications of the credit crunch and doesn't just opt for a quick-fix approach which will see further problems pile up in the future.

Philip Turner

Closure sale really emptied the store

I went to the final sale in my local Woolworths last week and was stunned to see the store selling off its shelves.

What good could they possibly be to anyone unless they in turn were setting up a store? I've heard of everything must

go sales but that was totally ridiculous.

Brian Hills

Dancing around her own contradictions

Exotic dancer Danielle Walker, whilst attempting to extol the virtues of lapdancing, noticeably contradicts herself.

Firstly, she worryingly proclaims some of her customers get a bit weird sometimes, but you just move away' and then





To advertise in this section **10** 01303 817150

announced there is nothing wrong or sleazy about her line of work.

If I found myself employed in a profession where my clients started behaving so strangely I felt impelled to distance myself from them, I would certainly be concerned enough to question whether the job I had chosen was quite as harmless and without risk I had led myself to believe it was.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler Canterbury

Olympic heroes gave us a sense of pride

In many ways 2008 has been a year people will want to forget with the continuing economic woes and the problems in the Middle East and

across the continent of Asia.

However there is one area which gave people in the UK at least a real boost – sport.

Not the overpaid prima donnas of the Premiership or the under achieving cricketers and rugby players but the members of the Olympic team who did so well in Beijing.

People such as Rebecca Adlington went out as virtual unknowns but by the end of the games were being acclaimed as heroes.

These performers showed what sport is all about and brought a great deal of pride to the UK.

Warren Bright

Robin red breast was a sight to behold

You recently carried an article about



the RSPB and its call to put out winter nesting boxes

I did so in my garden and was delighted that a large variety of birds took advantage of the box and were around over the holiday period.

The sight of a robin at Christmas time was a particular delight and truly seasonal.

Diane McIntyre

We need a Dr Who has some charisma

I must say how much I enjoyed the recent Christmas Dr Who show but it certainly showed David Morrissey should not have been considered for the title role.

In the part he played - a sort of Dr Who wannabee – he was very good. But when he was on screen next to David Tennant it was clear who the star was

He did not have a fraction of the true Doctor's charisma and even though I'm sure the script was written that way, he did not show nearly enough to

warrant the permanent role.

Matt Smith, as the next Timelord will have a great deal of work to do to even come close to Tennant's fine

Tony Simpkins By email

On the road to using ludicrous names

The recent move to suggest roads should be named after local people who have achieved something is a good one and would be a way to commemorate those who have put something into communities or left their hometowns and prospered elsewhere. But it should

not be politically motivated.

The 80s saw a succession of ludicrous left wing councils naming otherwise normal streets after obscure Latin American "freedom fighters" or subsequently disgraced African politicians. It became a standing joke.

Paul Crowther

Countdown begins to the next festivities

Can I be the first to tell readers from today (January 7) - there are only 352 days until Christmas?

I wonder when the first adverts for toys will appear on TV and the first cards will be on sale in stores?

Around early September I'd say

judging by last year.

By email

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- garden furniture Cleaning Tablets that make 5 Litres of Universal Cleaning Detergent

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LEGENDS OF ROCK: Status Quo will play Bedgebury Pinetum & Forest's first concert of the summer – tickets are likely to sell extremely quickly

Your Quota of solace

Summer concerts to banish winter blues

AFTER all the festive **SUMMER CONCERTS** excitement, cast your mind ahead to the entertainment treats that 2009 will bring.

It is never too early to think about the summer, so banish those winter blues with thoughts of warm sun on your back and great music in your

ears.
Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest has announced the line-up for its big summer concerts, and music fans can look forward to another fan-

tastic weekend.
On the Saturday, legendary rockers
Status Quo will be filling the forest air with their unmistakable sound.

Tickets for Quo's outdoor gigs always sell out quickly, so book soon to avoid missing out on this musical treat. The band last played at Bedgebury three years ago and, having sold out three forest concerts last year, are looking forward to returning

to the Kent setting.

Having been in the business for five decades, Status Quo are a rock'n'roll institution. They have sold more than 118 million records worldwide and scored more than 63 hit UK singles, more than any other band.

Their records have spent more than seven and a half years in the charts and they made 106 appear-ances on Top of the Pops. In a real change of tone, the

Sunday will see Katherine Jenkins dazzling the audience with her spectacular voice. A true symbol of girl power, the classical superstar's fifth album outsold the likes of Girls Aloud and the Spice Girls. At just 28,

Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest, Goudhurst

she is already the fastest-selling soprano ever, with global record sales of more than three million.

She will be accompanied by the National Symphony Orchestra as she demonstrates the versatile voice that has allowed her to sing every-thing from the great arias of opera to the Hollywood classics.

Tickets cost £32 for Status Quo and

£32.50 for Katherine Jenkins, subject to a booking fee. To book, phone the ticket hotline on 01842 814612, buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music, or go to the Bedgebury visitor centre.

The Bedgebury concerts are just two of the exciting events happening in Kent later this year. Canterbury's Lounge on the Farm is back during July 10-12 and music lovers can look forward to another great weekend of music. For updates, you can visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.

After a mixed reaction to the Zoo8 event last summer, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, pledged to return with an improved festival for 2009. Line-up and ticket details are still to be announced.

Sellindge Music Festival became a fully-fledged music event for the first time last year, attracting Idlewild as its headline act.

Tickets go on sale this month for the three-day event, which returns to Hope Farm, near Ashford, from June 5-7. You can find out more at www. sellindgemusicfestival.co.uk.



BIG VOICE: Soprano Katherine Jenkins



FOR MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT VISIT @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Jane Connolly Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk





NEW SEASON Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



FROM jazz to folk, from comics to dance, the Gulbenkian's new season is bursting with exciting shows.

Music fans will be spoiled for choice as British jazz leg-end Acker Bilk and the undisputed 'princess of jazz' Jacqui Dankworth make a welcome return.

Take part in the 40th anniversary celebrations of folk-rock pioneers Steeleye Span, experience the music of Nationwide Mercury Prize nominee Eliza Carthy or try something a little different in the community singing project Global Voices Workshop.

If you are looking for a laugh, check out Rhod Gilbert, Mark Watson, Josie Long, Pappy's Fun Club, Mark Thomas, Lucy Porter (pictured) or last year's if. Comedy Award winner, Comedy Award winner, David O'Doherty. Step into a different world

with Strangeface's darkly



comic folk tale The Last Resort or witness the moving story of an Eastern European girl's journey to England in In A Thousand

There is drama in The Pickwick Papers and Can Any Mother Help Me?,

while children can experience the magic of theatre with How The Giraffe Got Its Neck and Grandpa Joe's Magic Show.

For more information call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

NEW SEASON Marlowe Theatre,



RICHARD E Grant will be among the acclaimed actors treading the Marlowe's

boards this season.

The Withnail and I star plays a parent who turns into a child in the hit West End comedy God of Carnage. When two boys fight at school, a meeting between their enlightened parents soon descends into childish squabbling. The play will be arriving in Canterbury in March before returning to March before the West End.

In February two more film and stage legends, Edward Fox and Claire Bloom, will be appearing in Lloyd George Knew My Father, a hilarious drawing room comedy that depicts the British aristocracy at their most eccentric as Lady Boothroyd fights to save her historic home.



Later that month the Russian Ice Stars will appear in the breathtaking Cirque de Glace and people will be dancing in the aisles to the Blues Brothers Party. Enjoy a Brief Encounter in

with Noel Coward's romantic classic or experience one of the new season's one-night shows. Willard White, Claire Teal, Jimmy Carr and the Philharmonic Orchestra are just some of the new season's highlights.

For more information call www.marlowetheatre.com.

NEW SEASON





THE new season at the Horsebridge gets off to a great start this weekend with Playtime

Theatre's Secrets.

On Saturday (Jan 10), children will be invited to participate in the story of village toymaker who is threatened with eviction. His toys come to life and hatch a plan to save him in this enchanting play which includes

puppetry.
Vintage jazz band the Blue Rhythm Kings will continue to make their regular visits, while this month's Horsebridge Comedy gets the year off to a great start with a visit from

Richard Herring on January 30.

Discover the stars of tomorrow from February at the weekly comedy showcase Monkey-shine and enjoy an alternative Valentine's Day night out in the company of Alan Clayson (pictured), one of rock 'n' roll's more extraordinary figures.

Also in February, Upstage Musical Productions will strive to create a new musical with young people in just a week. In March The Theatre of the Small presents Faust and Other Devilish Tales, a chilling



mask and puppet show, and movie buffs will

enjoy the Archive Film Show.
For more information call 01227 281174 or visit www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk.

CANTERBURY LEISURE

Am-dram players move into the internet age

ONE of Kent's oldest amateur drama

ONE of Kent's oldest amateur drama groups has entered a new age by launching its own website.

The Charing Guild of Players was formed in 1946 and 12 years later, members and parishioners paid £100 to buy their own 17th century tithe barn where they still perform today. Since then the Guild has performed more than 100 plays and is always open to new members

To find out more visit the website at www.charingguild.synthasite.com.

Jolie's moving portrayal of mother's hunt for son

ANGELINA Jolie faces every mother's nightmare in Clint Eastwood's acclaimed

film, Changeling.

Jolie is tipped for an Oscar for her portrayal of a single woman whose young son disappears in 20s Los Angeles, only to be 'reunited' with the wrong boy.

Changeling (cert 15) will be screened at the Gulbenkian Cinema, Canterbury, on Friday (Jan 9) and from Monday (Jan 12) to Thursday (Jan 15). Tickets cost £7/£6. To book call 01227 769075 or go online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

Hogarth's moral tales celebrated at exhibition

THERE is still time to explore Silk, Squalor and Scandal at Herne Bay Museum and Gallery.

The exhibition celebrating Hogarth's moral tales features the famous prints which reflect 18th century life with witty detail.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. The exhibition is open from 10am to 4pm. For more information visit www.hernebay-musuem.co.uk.

Publicise your upcoming events on these pages

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised on these

Send full details of your event to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before

If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event. We cannot guarantee coverage, but we will do our best to promote local events.

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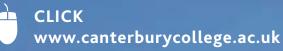
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New YEAR

Join us in January

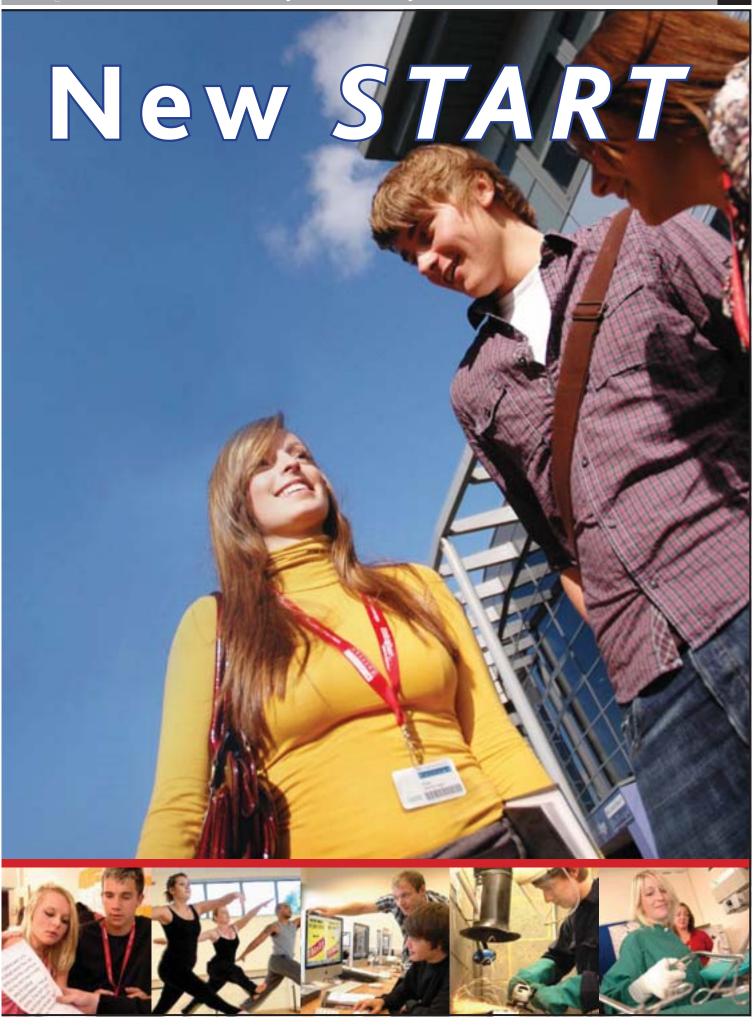
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CANTERBURY SHOPPING

Soothe away the festive feasting at a luxury spa

AFTER the Christmas excesses, Kent's spas can offer the perfect antidote.

Eastwell Manor in Boughton Lees, near Ashford, is offering a Plus Two Package, including a two-course lunch and two spa treatments, for £128. Its Golf and Spa Break (£210 each) includes a one-night stay, dinner in the manor house, spa flotation treatment and four rounds of golf. Call 01233 213000 or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

The Hythe Imperial's packages start from £99 for a one-day spa break. Call 01303 267441 or see www.mercure.com.

Stretch yourself to ease those aches and pains

IF the thought of heading back to the

gym fills you with dread, yoga could be the new hobby for you this year.

As well as increasing flexibility and promoting relaxation, yoga has been shown to alleviate the symptoms of compon complaints such as backache PMS. mon complaints such as backache, PMS, IBS, anxiety, insomnia and stress.

The Yoga Sanctuary in Barham is a designated yoga space, designed by teachers Cheryl Rivers and Caroline Bindon-Blood. Call 01227 720061 or 01227 711258 or visit www.theyoga sanctuary.co.uk.

Follow the sergeant's orders and shed pounds

BURN off those mince pies the army way and meet new people with British Military Fitness.

As the UK's largest outdoor fitness provider, BMF offers the chance to get fit

and lose weight with their open-air classes which feature running, circuit activi-ties and team challenges. Ex-army fitness instructors run the 60-minute classruns in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and offers free trial sessions. See www.britmilfit.com.

Step up to the exercise challenge with DVDs

SHAPE up in celebrity style with fitness DVDs from singer Claire Richards and Loose Women star Coleen Nolan.

Former Steps star Richards lost five stone and went down five dress sizes

with her 5 Step Fat Attack. Or try Nolan's Disco Burn. Having lost three stone last year for Rosemary Conley's Brand New You DVD, she has now lost a further two by dancing and

grooving.
Both DVDs are priced at £19.99.

Pamper your mind and body and feel good

BEAT the January blues with sumptuous mood-boosting products from ous moo L'Occitane

The Butterfly Lavender Joyful Mood Body Cream (£24.45) contains extracts of

lavender essential water, which can relax, soothe skin and increase production of our well-being molecules'. Sleep tight with the Relaxing Pillow Mist (£11.75), which combines the soothing properties of lavender, tea tree and

geranium with lime blossom.
See the stores in Canterbury and Bluewater and or www.loccitane.co.uk.

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YOUR TV REVIEW



OZ AND JAMES DRINK TO BRITAIN

BBC Two, 8pm, Tuesday DANCING ON ICE ITV1, 7pm, Sunday

BY TOM BETTS

WHEN James May lolled his way onto our screens a few years ago he hardly seemed the domineering type.

But it's hard to escape "Captain Slow" these days and difficult to turn on the TV without seeing that slightly bemused expression peering back at you from behind one of the country's worst haircuts.
From his 20th Century show, to Top

Toys, Big Ideas and, of course, Top Gear, which led him to stardom, May is everywhere.

His meteoric rise has echoed Richard Hammond's, who could also fill an entire channel with his shows.

Both are no doubt laughing all the

way to the bank.

May's latest show sees him once

more teaming up with Oz Clarke, the slightly over-the-top wine expert, to get drunk.

get drunk.
Unlike the last adventures when these two lucky chaps set out on Oz and James's Big Wine Adventure (undoubtedly inspired by the excellent film Sideways) the focus this time is more on brilliant beers than blinding

The pair will travel through Britain and Ireland to marvel at all things alcoholic in a 1982 Rolls Royce Corniche. Nice work if you can get it.

The two previous series were an enjoyable enough romp as the scruffy May was time and again upstaged by the Clarke palette, leading to much entertaining alcohol-fuelled bickering, so expect more of the same this time



ON ICE: With Celebrity Big Brother already clogging up our schedules, brace yourself for more reality telly with Dancing On Ice

Just when you thought it was safe to return to the sofa on a weekend night. after the seemingly endless run of The X Factor and Strictly Come Dancing, ITV deal us all a real hammer blow and schedule the return of Dancing On Ice.

On Ice.

The whole shebang is another celebrity-led affair, of course, and I fear TV channels have long since given up with the general public.

Hollyoaks nearly man Jeremy Edwards, EastEnders' Todd Carty and various other soap nobodies will

various other soap nobodies will prance around on the slippery stuff for the agonisingly long 12-week run while rink royalty Torvill and Dean will once more be tormentors in chief.

The main talking point of the series last year was the plunging neckline of Holly Willoughby's frocks, which says a lot for the actual 90 minutes of skating offered up each week.

The nightmare begins on Sunday.

Don't know about you but I'm bored of 2009 already.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE



are given an important leadership position. People respect your ideas and are willing to follow your advice. Improving a school, house of worship, or cultural institution may take up the lion's share of your time this year.
• To find out more about what the stars have in

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21) 2009 promises to be one of the best years ever careerwise. Opportunities related to broadcasting, computers, or airline travel are looking good. You could also find a good position related to education, travel, or publishing. If you'd like to break into another industry ask a friend.
• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on Taurus 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23) THERE'S never been a better year to get married or start a business. Two heads are better than one. If you join finances with somebody, your for-tune will increase. If you're single, this would be good time to consult a money manager. News regard-

ing a job could reach your ears.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Leo 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22) SUPPORT from friends and family helps you make several breakthroughs. Don't be afraid to get counselling for a problem. Putting this issue to rest will liberate you. Romance could burst into flower this week. You're especially drawn to a shy artist who is quite spiritual.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Scorpio 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20) IT may feel as if you're surrounded by a protective shield this year. While others have problems you seem to be riding high without a care in the world. Starting this week, you,ll have more time for hobbies. Ask your partner how they see your future and start making plans.

 To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Pisces 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22) AN opportunity to expand your horizons will come your way. Going back to school, writing a book, or living abroad could be in the cards. It's possible your job will prompt this venture. You may be hesitant to make such a move. Eventually, though, you'll enjoy this turn of events.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Gemini 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23) IF you ever wanted to start your own business, this is the year to do it. You'll find clients at every turn. If you fulfil your responsibilities you will reach a new level of professional

success. When your knees threaten to buckle under your responsibilities, turn to a loved one. • To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Virgo 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov23-Dec21) TAKING or teaching a class will lend insight to philosophical matters. It's possible you'll adopt a religious philosophy or spiritual outlook. Repainting a drab room could make a tremendous difference to your mood. Your leadership ability could help you

land a lucrative job. • To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Sagittarius 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20) SPENDING more time on solitary pleasures will help you recover from a hectic fes-tive season. Friends will assume an increased importance in your life. When you feel overwhelmed ask your loved ones for help. They'll be happy to help. Open

your heart and be receptive.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Aries 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23) YOUR love life gets a boost this year. You could meet someone special at a house of worship, adult classroom, or library. Keep your eyes open for an offbeat rebel with a generous spirit. If you're in a relationship, 2009 is a good time to make a major change in your home or career.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on Cancer 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct23) THIS week kicks off a period of fun, romance, and adventure. It's possible that you'll be able to mix business with pleasure. When you have a little extra money, invest it in your wardrobe. When you look good, you feel good. A relative may be poised to give you the financing.
• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on Libra 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20) YOUR income is in for a boost. A rise helps you afford luxuries previously beyond reach. Be sure to spend a portion of your cash on an overseas trip. A love letter or birthday message puts a spring in your step. Don't hesitate to propose bold plans. You never know who is listening.

• To find out more about what the stars have in

store call Russell on Capricorn 09067-531761

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

8 Underground room in the act had been decoded (9)

- **9** During tremor a grand lady appeared (5)
- **10** Post Office (9)
- 11 Comfort companion at all times (5)
- 12 Putting a stop to something after one's had a bath (7,3,4)
- 15 Not the whole role (4)
- 17 Search into books for information about dig (5)
- **19** Piquancy of orange-peel (4)
- 21 Reprimand for having to score goal perhaps in oneis underwear (4,2,3,5)
- 23 Daughter in rain moved to lowest point (5)
- 24 A way Ronald has with gold model, a spaceman (9)
- 26 Produced a bloomer using lower mouthpiece (5) 27 Additional part for accomplice (9)
- DOWN

- 1 Get back, are lacking a successful move (6)
- 2 Bet Clare could remove ornamental chain (8) 3 With this one is not prejudiced to receive and consider
- new ideas (4,4)
- 4 We're endlessly going round one dam (4)
- **5** Kiss for £1! (7)
- 6 Real sportsman who is unswervingly faithful (4-4)
- 7 Total of materials used with cement to form concrete (9)
- 13 Pull up child from deep valley (5)
- 14 Said quartet said to be reserved (6,3)
- 16 Carol heid redirected to town near Manchester (8)
- **18** One selling overseas was stout (8)
- 19 Clownishness of last character Annie performing on board (8)
- 20 Mess is putrid, I leave to break up (7)
- 22 Unimportant person quits turning runs inside (6) 25 Clothing cassocks hide (4)

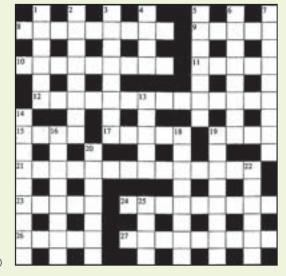
SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No68

EASY

SCRIBBLE HERE



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



ACROSS

- 8 SW US state (36)
- 9 Farewell (5)
- 10 Obstacle (9)
- 11 Roman (anag.) (5)
- 12 Not good enough (14)
- 15 Roman garment (4)
- 17 Just (5) **19** Machine-gun (4)
- 21 Mathematical term (6,8)
- 23 Reward (5)
- 24 Temperate (9)
- 26 Steel mast (5) 27 Immunise (9)

HARD

DOWN

- 1 Unpleasant familiar illusion (4.2)
- 2 Food of the gods (8)
- 3 Man appointed by testator (8)
- 4 Frozen (4)
- 5 Hanging bed (7)
- 6 Postings (anag.) (8)
- 7 Extracting from open excavation (9)
- 13 Sweetener (5)
- 14 Tall silk hat (9)
- 16 Easily tricked (8) 18 Sound of a clock (4-4)
- **19** Rotating (8)
- 20 Pepper (7)
 - 22 Fourscore and ten (6)
 - **25** Heehaw (4)

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No68

ACROSS: 1 Capsicum 6 Bedsit 9 Vandal 10 Linotype 11 Lacking drive 13 Globe 14 Angleworm 17 Coagulate 19 Cruse 21 Wellinformed 24 Physique 25 De-icer 26 Writhe 27 Unevenly. **DOWN:** 2 Ajax 3 Saddlebag 4 Calico 5 Million 6 Benignly 7 Deter 8 Impoverish 12 Altogether 15 Worldwide 16 Clinique 18 Thoreau 20 Smudge 22 Liszt 23 Peal.

QUICK SOLUTION No69

Vaccinate, **DOWN:** I Deja vu Z Ambrosia 3 Executor 4 Leed 5 Hammock 6 Signpost 7 Quarrymg 13 Sugar 14 Sbvepipe 16 Gullible 18 Tick-tock 19 Spinning 20 Cayenne 22 Vlinety 55 Bray. 23 Prize 24 Abstinent 26 Pylon 27 Barricade 11 Manor 12 Unsatisfactory 15 Toga 17 Right 19 Sten 21 Vulgar fraction ACRUSS: 8 New Mexico 9 Adieu 10

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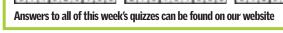
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ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE 37yr old female, 2 kids. slim brown 37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a car-ing, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE
Good looking woman, 37, 5ft2, brown
hair/eyes, 2 kids. Looking for new
friends, and hopefully someone special. Box 446039
■
SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair,

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship

and more. Box 428666 ©
LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large
build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own
house, loves walking, going out, the
usual! Seeking male for longterm/serious relationship. Box 438102

DON'T PASS ME BY Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 897983

MEND A BROKEN HEART Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 • •

wasters! Box 908053 • • FROM ME TO YOU

Tall leggy brunette, 38, recently bereaved, enjoy meals out or nights in, dry white wine, a good movie & cuddles, seeking a male for companionship. Box 887404

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

897983

WOMEN seeking men

SINGLE DAD WANTED
Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema, animals, WLTM honest, trust-

worthy male, 28-38. Box 446099 1 LOVE FOOTBALL

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(1), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be soulmate. Box 446494

man to be soulmate. Box 446494
MAYBE MORE
Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more.
WLTM fun man 25-30. I'm female, 26
brown hairiblue eyes, average build.
Box 445622
SMILES
Hilm 27, resibone 5644 him.

SMILES
Hi I'm 27, redhead, 5ft1, blue eyes, intelligent, open-minded, caring, loves going out, music, good meals, seeking friendship, snuggles with caring, understanding gent. Box 446786 SNUGGLE UP

SNUGGLE UP
Tall, attractive, good hearted African
female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good
food and cuddles, WLTM a white male
for friendship/romance. Box 441654 •

Success Stories



Read or write your own Success Story. Our members have been keen to write about their stories and how they met - who knows, their stories may help you in your search! We are always glad to hear from you.

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 Search at your leisure If you can't find who you're looking for on our page here, you will find so many more members online. Browse, read, hear and see members.

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 444214

■ for long term loving relationship 444214 **①** CHANGE OF SCENERY

CHANGE UF SOUTH STATE AND A STATE OF THE AND A STAT

reaum-and handsome happy times. Box 4380b7 CUDDLY FEMALE... ...32, 5fl9, brown hair, curry, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 €

HORSES FOR COURSES...
Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 527, blonde, likes walking, horse rid-ing, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship.
Box 384013
ATTENTION! TALL
WHITE GUY REQUIRED
TOTAL INTERIOR TO BE AND THE STATE OF THE INTERIOR TO BE AND THE TOTAL THE TOWN THE STATE OF THE INTERIOR THE STATE OF THE STATE OF THE INTERIOR THE STATE OF THE STAT

WHITE GUY REQUIRED
Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves
watching football, shopping, travel,
seeking tall, while, loving male, 34-47,
for LTR. Chatham. Box. 437776
CANTERBURY 1ALE
Single mum of 2, 32, WLTM someone
kind, caring and considerate, for
nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from
Whitstable, please call again, leave
contact details! Box. 406670

LOSE ENCHIMETE

LOSE SECRITURE

LOSE SECRITU

contact details! Box 406670

CLOSE ENCOUNTER
Loving, caring, tactile female, 36, 5'8", blonde hair, blue-eyes, N/S, GSOH, likes cinema, bowling, country pubs, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship and LTR. Box 827619 ① ②

snip and LIR. Box 82/519 € ♥ PRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Social, genuine, honest, single mum,
36, 5ff6. I've got hazzle eyes and dark
hair, and enjoy the cinema, meals out.
WLTM sincere, attractive, genuine
male. Box 446840 €

TRY ME

TRY ME
Ashford based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring, and loving man. I have 2 kids, and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

◆

DON'T LET ME DOWN
Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like foo ball, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 TENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

EN I MUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39,
medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy!
likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential excitting relationship! Box 446724

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum,
38, 5'5', likes cars, reading, pubs,
cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking
for that right male for LTR. Box
905614 © Q
ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair,
blue eves likes the nym cooking.

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5ft8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT...

GREATEST GIFT.... Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wining and dining, holidays; seek-ing likewise gentleman to bee happy with. Box 446763 ⊕ NO TIES

NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge
Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male
40-50 for company, fun, love and
laughter. Box 443573 0
TOO MUCH TO ASK?

Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 • • ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and danc-ing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box

FREE AD placement, call: 0808 156 5339

COLLECT your messages: 0906 550 4335

YOU'LL SMILE IF YOU DIAL Bubbly 40yr old female, enjoys beach es, pubs, clubs, WLTM a like-minded, caring male to share fun times with.

Box 435102 (1)

FUN AND ROMANCE

446890 COUNTRY LASS
SEARCHING FOR LOVE

Country-loving happy lady, 42, green eyes, long curly hair, good figure, looking for a genuine guy for a serious relationship and happy moments. Box 883723 🕡



CAN YOU HANDLE ME?

rm a 42 year old professional lady, long dark hair, brown eyes, petite with a wacky SOH. Looking for friends to chill with, then who knows? Box 884441

884441 TO BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY
Caring lovable lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidencel seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life.

BOX 885761 TO STORY TO

Box 885/761 0

LETS CLICK
WLTM a nice guy with a similar
nature; I'm an outgoing woman, 42,
with brown hair and green eyes. Tell
me ABOUT you'll box 446847 0

FAST LOVE
Snigle lady, 43, likes gardening, eating
out, cinema, music and more, seeking
male for friendship and maybe more.
Box 446981 0

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS
Laid-back snigle mum, very bubbly,

Laid-back single murn, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema; look-ing to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457

446457 **O**GENUINE REPLIES ONLY

Bubbly female, 44, brunette, NS,
mediumlarge build, enjoys singing
and theatre. Would love to meet a
decent fun-loving guy, similar age,
pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 LOVING, CARING & HONEST

Hard working single mum, young 44yr old, 5ft5, medium build, enjoys dining out, holidays, cinema and walks, WLTM a caring and genuine male for friendship/relationship. Box 444751

0905 211 0651 REPLY by Gext

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to **82250** e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

REPLY to an ad. call:

WHERE R U?
Cheerful, honest, popular blonde,
50yrs old, 5ft2, slim, looking to find an
honest, loyal man. lan, call again,
leave contact details. Box 887347
FUNNY GIRL

FUNNY GIRL
Petite, blonde female, 50, GSOH, likes music, books, films, cooking, looking for romantic soulmate, 40-5 for TLC. Kent. Box 835181 ① ②
CARING & PROFESSIONAL

BISS 30LLE

Bubby blonde, 44, stupid and like having a bubph, your company, finend-free having a busph, you company, finend-free hospital lives. Box 888162

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL) Deal-based et aligh, 43, divorage origing out, paths, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

Warm, radiant, with, prilelignent, attractive, biack female, Christian, 44, likes music, jazz, travel ant, restburnts, theatre, seeking a cultured, NS, intelligent, solvent gentleman, Box 433075

GOULD IT BEY 901? Female, 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Box 417100

A NEW MAN FOR

COULD IT BE YOU? COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

☐

later on. Box 889800
HERE WE ARE
Easygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

Invies and more. Boundary South Mess and more and the second of the seco

EVERLASTING LOVE
Beautiful black temale, 46, WLTM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-60, 6ff10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 44540**

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

If exporting to someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810

HAPPY GO LUCKY.

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH.

with GSOH

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH.
I'm Sffe, with short brown hair, brown
eyes. I have lots of interests and
WLTM similar guy. Box 895019 ©
ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes
socialising, dancing, travelling, good
food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42c
25 for love and TLC. Seaforts Box
444366 ©
STIMULATING COMPANY
Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46,
WLTM nice maile, for good conversations, company, and maybe more.

BOX 396829 ©
ENTERTAIN ME

ENTERTAIN ME

BEST MEDICINE
Help me write my stand-up comedy
routinel I'm 49, you'll need to make
me laugh out loud and understand
observational comedy to make the

grade. Box 892640 TUST IMAGINE

A NEW MAN FOR
THE NEW YEAR
Sue from Kent, 52, looking for an
honest and sincere gentleman to
share a loving and committed relationship with. Bow 447493 ©
MEND A BROKEN HEART
HArd working, kind and caring female,
young 52, seeking a genuine man for
a relationship, no time wasters
please! Box 444286 ©
SEEING THROUGH
THE SHYNLESS

THE SHYNESS
Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLTM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383
SEEKING SOULMATE

ECRAING SOULMATE
Gorgeous slim attractive young-looking female, 54, active, wicked SOH,
5f6, blue eyes, sociable, loves music,
dancing, travelling, seeking warm,
sincere man for genuine companionship. Box 446834

ENJOY LIFE

ENJOY LIFE

Quick, easy way to view a member's Photo!

Just enter the six-digit Box number,

Your phone must be WAP-enabled

as subject.

SOPHISTICATED SUE
Sue, Spir old, SIdt, green eyes,
petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming. WLTM a tall prefessonal male, similar age, for friendstip and romance. Box 44:500 ©
NO SHALLOWINES
Intelligent lady, 55, 5ft8, large build,
looking for a nice, genuine male who
enjoys theatre, meals, laughter,
music, relaxing and good conversation. Box 444:145 ©
EXTRAI EXTRAI
READ ALL ABOUT ITI
READ ALL ABOUT ITI
African lady, SS, likes reading, current

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

African lady, 58, likes reading, current affairs and travelling, WLTM an outgoing, fun-loving and honest male to share the rest of my life with. Box 445122

LIFE IS FOR LIVING

LIFE IS FOR LIVING
Stylish and sophisticated woman, 56, young outlook on life, curvy but slim, conflident and outgoing, loves holidays abroad, seeks a gentleman, 50-59, for romance. Box 447475 FANCY A RIDE?
Affectionate tactile bubbly woman, seems 66 EST behade, gray the locking.

HEART TO HEART
Open-minded lady, 58, seeking male
56-63, lenjoy walking, eating out,
gardering, foreign holidays and more.
Box 4464690
HELP!
Positive, vivacious female, 59, 514,
enjoys art, seaside walks and music,
seeks tallish, kind, caring male to
grow old with_disgracefully. Box
444943 0

grow old wint...disgletceruny. DAM
444943

I HAWE A DREAM
Blonde, bubbly curvy female, 59,
looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be my soulmate. GSOH. Box 883891

WALKS ALONG THE COAST
Honest & sincere female, 58, tall,

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relation-ship. Box 441622 **⊕**

ONLY LOVE

ONLY LOVE
Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, GSOH, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special firend to share life with. Box 883791 '@
TIME ON MY HANDS
Recently retired female, 60, 5tlt, medium build, very nice person, WLTM a male, similar age, to spend vdays with, must be caring! my days with, must be caring! Eastbourne Box 445696 • •

seeking women

Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953

ENJOY LIFE
55yr old woman, brown hair/blue
eyes, 5ft2. I'm divorced with a grown
up family. I enjoy reading, travel, cinema, music, eating out. WLTM caring,
genuine man. Box 446798

●

Look for the P symbol. followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250

Add a photo of yourself

Register your number with us & send by MMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P

SOPHISTICATED SUE

Women

Seeking women

THAT'S ME
Kind, loving, fun woman, passionate
and considerate with a GSOH. I'm
24, 5fls, and tooking for an attractive
female to share interests. Box
445340 @
FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE
Curry bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully
more. Single mun, work part time.
Box 886142 @ DE
LOVE TO LOVE
Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes,
hlonde hair, medium bulid, likes wif-

Single male, 43, no ties, very genuing slim, 6ft4, brown hair, green eyes, loves sport and soul music, WLTM a

MEN seeking women HAVE MUCH TO OFFER 23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark 23yr old guy, 6ft, medium build, dark blond hair and blue eyes, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks, keeping fit, seeking like-minded girl for friendship and more. Box 893423 **●** FOR LOVE

FOR LOVE
Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark
hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays
harder! likes going/eating out, walks,
pubs, loves life, seeking similar
happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

THE SERIOUS KIND

THE SERIOUS KIND
Good-looking male. 31, dark complexton, 516b, looking for a woman for a relationship, possible leading in or marriage. Box 447403 © WISHFULLY YOURS
My name is Mick, I'm 34 years old, single dad, 51ft to bluegray eyes and dark brown hair, a non-smoker. Box 883844 © Social Sort

Single dad, 34, I love pubs, clubs, socialising, eating out, motor racing. WLTM kind, honest lady. I'm 5ft10, with blue eyes/dark brown hair. Box 883971

LOVE ME TENDER

Fun-loving honest guy , 34, 5ft11, brown hair, seeking honest, caring female for friendship, maybe leading

ITE WTOLE PACKAGE
Sincere down-to-earth male, 36,
5ft11, dark blonde, blue eyes, clean,
passionate, seeking genuine black
female with great personality,
looks/size/religion unimportant, for
fun, friendship, maybe more. Box
447034 €

EAST MEETS WEST
HI ITM 36 Asian modifier be fall.

EAST MEETS WEST HI I'm 36, Asian, medium build, enjoys many activities, seeking a white woman 18-33 for interesting encounters. Box 447151 DROP ME A LINE Hi, I'm Matt, 37, short and stocky,

NATION TO STAND TO S

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093

HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cine ma, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

FUN DIV. 41, who enjoys life seeks a like-minded female to share a fun friendship full of adventures, maybe something more. Box 883569 • FUN TIMES AHEAD

Caring 43yr old male, like walks, swimming, sport, dining out and quiet nights in. Looking to meet a female to share fun times with. Box 447329 ①
CONSIDER THIS!

CONSIDER THIS!
Warm and fun-loving 43yr old male,
5ft10, loves beach holidays, nights
out, cinema and dancing, WLTM a considerate female with GSOH to
enjoy life with. Box 447307 ♥
FUN AND CUDDLY
42yr old male, 5ft7, blue eyes, enjoys

AND CUBBLY.

42yr old male, 51ff, blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swiming and cosy inglish in, seeking a damsel to rescue and ben dopply with. East Sussex Box.

4383.3 © COME FLY WITH ME

FUNCTION OF THE WASHINGTON OF THE WAS WANTS TO COOK FOR TWO

PLL MAKE YOU LAUGH
Very conantic, carmly and bygul male,
44, slim, blue eyes, fair hair great
SOH, seeks fermale with similar inter-ests for hopeful LTR. No time-wasterst Hastings, Box 446120 @
DAD'S THE WORD
Lonely single male, 44, 6f12, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 326 bot have fun with and hopefully something else. Box 446452 @

GHTS IN AND OUT NIGHTS IN AND OUT
Separated male in Maidstone area, 44
looking for a lady, 40-50, to whe and
dine and enjoy time with. Lets see
what happens! Box 894411 ● ②
TO THE FUTURE!
Well-built male, 44, looking for A
female for firendship and fun, lets start
2008 not being single and with a
smile Box 883622 ● ③
SHARE THE GOOD LIFE
Professional male 45, own home/car
Professional male 45, own home/car

SHARE THE GOOD LIFE
Professional male, 45, own home/car,
likes cinemas, weekends away, the
coast, a BBQ and good wine, booking
for friendship, hopefully more. Box
426202

HAND IN HAND
ALONG THE BEACH

ALONG THE BEACH
Genuine, honest caring bloke, 45,
medium build, 5ft10, lots of love to
give, loves sunsets, romance, cinema
seeking special lady to fall in love
with. Box 441826
YOU FOR ME & ME FOR YOU...
Thoughful caring divorced male 47.

Thoughtful, caring, divorced male, 47, athletic/muscular, black hair, enjoys concerts, walks on the beach and eating out, WLTM lady with similar characteristics for LTR. Eastbourne. Box 441719

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Slim build male, 48, 6ft, dark brown hair, eyes, attractive, animated, confident, eclectic, seeking soulmate 43-53 forever. Box 446553

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR:
Voulful diad, 45, 510°, brown hair,
med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM
female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR.
Crambrook Box 737523 0 0
LET'S SEE WHERE IT GOES...
Gentle kind male, 48, 519, medium
build, WLTM nice, attractive, firendly,
in to be with lady who likes going
out and socialising, for friendship first.
Box 442889 0
ALL ROMANCE
Romanic, strong male, 50, non-

ALL ROMANCE
Romanic, strong male, 50, non-smoking, I love travel, the coast cine-mail-neter, esteuaralt. Looking for love and laughter with lovely lady.

Box 445534 9

MAD MAN
Crazy fun-hoving 53yr old guy looking for another crazy lady, non-smoking, to go outletsy in with, likes music, walking, shopping, eating involut and mone. Box 683973

more. Box 883973
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME

Hello, I'm Roy, 53, 5ft5, from Kent, seeking a lady friend for evenings out and more. Box 447448
A GOOD CATCH

100% GENUINE
Young 58 man with GSOH, sick of being let down, likes holiday, cooking and animals, looking for someone to love, age and size is unimportant. Box 447397
■
MY XMAS WISH THIS YEAR
60 PROPERTY PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

60yrs young, handsome male, 6ft1, athletic, loves keeping fit, cricket, classical/blues/R&B music, cooking, travelling, dining, seeking lady to meet up with and see what happens!

Men

seeking men ARRESTING LOVE

ARRESTING LOVE
If there, I'm 40, 6ft green eyes,
blond hair, own house, enjoy pubs,
keeping fits, seking similar male,
sporty, for fun and maybe more. Box
436788 0

A BRIGHTER FUTURE
Solvent, professional 41yr old male,
enjoys eating out, films and keeping
fit, WLTM a younger male for fun,
friendship and hopefully love. Box
444725 0

MAKING LOVE
Genuine quy with great personality,

Genuine guy with great personality, 49, inexperienced with men, medium build/height, seeking similar male 60+to discover love with. Box 446184 THE REAL THING

THE REAL THING
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The Jimmy Brown Song performed by Kent Police Male Voice Choir



Medway band UpCDownC are the latest to perform on The Ether



Top five Kent gigs

1. Intraverse - 13/2/09 at Style & Winch in Maidstone

2. Shychlo And The Boys - 27/2/09 at The Westcoast Bar in Margate 3. A Thousand Ways To Fall - 12/3/09 at The Beercart Arms in Canterbury 4. Blackburner - 13/3/09 at Snowdon

Colliery Welfare Club in Aylesham 5. Kayley Weller - 28/3/09 at The Alma in Deal

Anarchy night Taps into some rocking new acts

BY **SIMON ROBINSON**

A HOST of up-and-coming bands has been lined up to play at the Tap'n'Tin this month – giving music fans the chance to catch a glimpse of the industry's next best things.

Seven groups will take to the stage in the coming weeks, performing at the Chatham venue's Anarchy All Ages club night, open to anyone over the age of 16.

First up on Sunday (January 11) is The

First up on Sunday (January 11) is The Chase, with support coming from Fate Of A Stranger and The Startover.

Lower Than Atlantis headline the next Anarchy night on Sunday, January 25, with Pay No Respect, Breaking The Day and Trial Of Fifty also on the bill. Tickets cost £6, or £5 with an Anarchy wristband.

For more details, visit www.tapntin.co.uk. Here's a selection of short band biogs to whet your appetite:

The Chase

The unsigned London five-piece cite Foo Fighters, Oasis and The Killers among their influences, but their sound is more akin to the American emo-rock favoured by the likes of Fallout Boy and Panic At The Disco.

Later this month the band will set off on a seven-date UK tour with Farewell City and Scarlet Desire in tow. Having built up a 21,000-strong army of online fans, this could be the year The Chase break through.

See www.myspace.com/thechaseuk.

Fate of a Stranger

Fellow Luton-based emo-rockers Fate Of A Stranger offer a "self-styled brand of post-



TUNE IN: The Chase and Lower Than Atlantis, right, are just two of the great bands set to play at Chatham's Taph'Tin

hardcore rock", with driving guitar riffs and catchy vocals drawing a legion of admiring

See www.myspace.com/fateofastrangeruk.

The Startover

The lively quartet describe their sound as a fusion of rock, punk and alternative genres. Simple, well-written songs will see their popularity blossom in the coming months.



If you miss the Tap gig, you can catch The Startover live on three occasions in Maidstone next month.

See www.myspace.com/thisisthestartover.

Lower Than Atlantis

Watford-born four-piece rockers Lower Than Atlantis, who are signed to the Thirty Days Of Night label, come to Medway on Sunday, January 25, and are sure to test the venue's sound system.

All the rock essentials are there – fast guitars, loud vocals and bundles of energy.

Pay No Respect

Heavier than the night's headliners, Pay No Respect offer the darker side to the rock scene – dishing out three-minute songs of screamed vocals and menacing drum beats.

See www.myspace.com/paynorespect.



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

AUSTRALIA (12A)



A romantic action adventure, Australia tells the story of Lady Ashley, an English aristocrat who inherits a substantial cattle ranch in Northern Australia. When the ranch comes under threat, Lady Ashley reluctantly drives 2,000 head of cattle across hundreds of miles – accompanied by a ranch-hand.

YES MAN (12A)



Carl Allen finds his life in a constant rut, with no social life and few adventures. After an encounter with a motivational speaker, he embarks on a hilarious journey when he begins to say yes to everything. Based on the best-seller by Danny Wallace, Yes Man explores what one word can do to change your life forever.

CHF - PART ONE (15)



Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh brings the life story of Ernesto 'Che' Guevara to the big screen. In the first of a two-part work, Che is found working with Fidel Castro to co-ordinate the 1956 mission to take control of Cuba. On their journey to topple the dictatorship, they encounter massive support and forge life-long friendships.

Pair are in good spirits

BY KATE WHITING

SAMUEL L Jackson is humming a ditty and looks so happy with the world, it's impossible not to beam at him as he shakes my hand.

The 60-year-old actor has plenty of reasons to be content. For a start, he's sitting next to the everglamorous Scarlett Johansson and he's just been honoured with a prestigious American Cinematheque Award for his contribution to movies.

Today, at a luxurious London hotel, he's in an ebullient mood. He's very enthusiastic about his latest film role in the daringly comic-like film adaptation of Will Eisner's The Spirit.

Eisner's The Spirit.

Samuel plays The Octopus, a deeply disturbed scientist and master of the criminal underworld, while 24-year-old Scarlett is his sexy sidekick Silken Floss.

It's clear from the way the pair are so relaxed and chatty with each other that they forged a strong friendship on set.

strong friendship on set.
"We definitely enjoyed ourselves," says Scarlett, flashing
Sam a cheeky smile.

"Amazingly we'd only see each other at award shows, but the moment we got on the plane together leaving LA, we kind of went Right, we're going to have a good time'," explains Sam.

good time," explains Sam.
"We just looked at each other
and smiled and laughed and I
thought 'OK, I like her'. We connected immediately and we had a
good time every day. No matter
what kind of time anyone else
was having, we had a good time."

The Spirit tells the story of Denny Colt (played by newcomer Gabriel Macht), a murdered policeman who has mysteriously come back to life as the masked



ADAPTED: Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L Jackson and Eva Mendes star in The Spirit

crime-fighter, The Spirit. He has just one goal in mind, keeping his beloved Central City safe from villains like The Octopus, but he still finds time for a string of beautiful women who either want to love or kill him.

kill him.
With Sin City creator and director Frank Miller at the helm, Sam and Scarlett were given free rein to play around with their baddle image, particularly because their characters were only roughly

sketched out in Will Eisner's original 40s comic.

We're used to seeing Sam tackling a range of character-driven roles in films ranging from Pulp Fiction to Snakes On A Plane. But it's unusual to see Scarlett, who made her name through a mix of indie films and costume dramas, in such a quirky role.

in such a quirky role.

The Octopus and Silken go through an incredible number of costume changes – one minute



they're a samurai warrior and geisha and the next Scarlett's in a very revealing nurse's outfit with curly white wig.

"A lot of times you're a character like a journalist, for instance, and you don't have the opportunity to be all costumed and glamorous and really play with different looks," the actress explains.

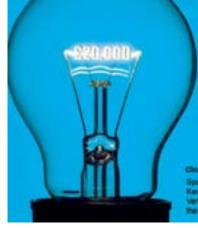
"I was really inspired by the golden age of Hollywood, by Lucille Ball and other actresses from the 40s. I wanted to play with that film noir look. But you're not necessarily conscious of it while you're working. It's something you do and when the director says 'Wow, you look fabulous', you're like Yes, that two hours in hair and make-up was worth it'"

hair and make-up was worth it?" Next year Scarlett will be back on screen with Jennifer Aniston and Drew Barrymore in He's Not That Into You, while Sam has just finished 'torturing' Michael Sheen in the thriller Unthinkable.

But before then the pair celebrated the festive season at home in the States with their families – Sam with his wife of 28 years Latanya and their daughter Zoe – and Scarlett with her new husband, actor Ryan Reynolds.



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MOTORS NEWS



SMC's smack in the eve for the recession

KENT dealer group SMC has kicked off 2009 with a recession-busting sale at its Ford and Mitsubishi outlets with savings of more than £15,000 possible against list prices on new cars and many bargains on used stock.

There will also be a prize draw for customers who take advantage of the 'Great SMC Sale' running until January 31.

They could win a large LCD television, Apple iPod Touch or an X-Box 360 games console, with the draw to be held on February 18.

Ford's line-up has just had a further upgrade with the all-new Fiesta (pictured) and also includes the Focus – the UK's no1 seller – the latest Mondeo family model plus award-winning MPVs: the C-Max, sporty S-Max and spacious

Galaxy people carrier.

SMC has sites at Crayford, Gravesend



Fiat gadget helps drivers cut costs and emissions

FIAT claims thousands of motorists using its eco:Drive fuel-saving advice device since launch in October, have

saved more than 163,000kg of CO2.

The free-of-charge tool helps drivers understand and adjust the impact of their driving style on fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Using a USB stick plugged into the car's dashboard, eco:Drive records detailed information about the vehicle and how it is driven, which can be and now it is driven, which can be uploaded on to a computer (see picture). It then gives an analysis of the driver's performance, along with suggestions on how to improve efficiency further by improving driving methods.

eco:Drive offers real benefits, helping drivers improve driving efficiency, saving fuel and reducing their impact on the environment," says Andrew Humb-erstone of Fiat Group Automobiles UK.

People using eco:Drive can become part of eco:Ville, an online community. Members have used it to offer ideas and feedback over the last three months, which Fiat has responded to – already the company has released four enhanced versions of the system.

Next year eco:Drive will become avail-

able for use in the Fiat Bravo and Qubo it already features in Fiat 500 and
 Grande Punto models – and there are plans to further widen the scope of the technology across the entire range.



PRESSURE IS ON: The new Vauxhall Corsa is giving the Fiesta a run for its money with sharper styling and elements to appeal to a variety of supermini buyers

Strong Corsa is out to spoil Fiesta-time

BRITAIN'S supermini race tends to be a two-horse tussle between the Ford Fiesta and Vauxhall Corsa and the latter might be expected to be under pressure now from the all-new Ford.

But don't jump to conclusions; the Vauxhall has been exceptionally dominant while waiting for the new generation Ford and won't be giving ground easily.

The Corsa is more sharply styled than before

and can court different categories of buyer: the low slung three-door attracts younger buyers, while the smart yet more practical five-door caters for families and older customers.

Where the old Corsa had also started to look low rent inside, against supermini rivals and newer Vauxhall models, the latest is a paragon of quality, using high grade materials and brighter interior colours and trims

The steering wheel is adjustable for height and reach on most models, the seats are higher quality and the dash is attractive and wellorganised. Underlining the car's youthful

VAUXHALL CORSA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Green rating	****

appeal, there is also an MP3 audio connection

on most models.

Leg, shoulder and headroom front and rear has increased across the board and Vauxhall claims the cabin is one of the quietest in its class, with reduced NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Having driven several versions now, I can't argue with that and the car handles and rides in a much tidier fashion than of old too - there is even a cracking little VXR 'pocket rocket' model.

As more of us downsize in search of greener motoring or convenience, the new Corsa also falls into what I call the 'supersize-me-mini' segment, typified by the latest Renault Clio, Fiat Punto and Peugeot 207. These bigger superminis deliver greater crash protection and retain some big car comforts for owners seeking to reduce both their physical and carbon footprint on the roads.

The 1.4 Club is the best seller – Club is the mid-range trim above Expression and Life, while the 1.4i petrol engine delivers a balance of economy, power and refinement. But it is the SXi tested here (list price £10,550) that cuts a dash with its sporty looks and smart



USED SMALL SUPERMINI/MPVS

carsf@rkent.co.uk

SO successful has been the MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or 'people carrier' concept that its influence has carried over to other car sectors. None more so than superminis, where designs are tending to be taller and more flexible, with 'smart' seating arrangements, extra headroom and load-lugging ability. None of the trio here would win styling prizes, but such versatility comes as standard and they are probably the closest to being the market's 'jacks of all trades'. After several years on the market, affordable examples should be easy to find too.

VAUXHALL MERIVA



NOT quite as influential as Vauxhall's bigger Zafira perhaps, but the Meriva has become a popular used buy with families seeking a manageable yet capacious family holdall. The car drives and handles well and offers a higher driving position than equivalent family hatches and estates, without being ridiculously lofty. Add Vauxhall's usual versatile 'Flex' system interior features, a reputation for reliability and a good range of engines including diesels and you can see why Meriva used prices can be high.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

HONDA JAZZ



HONDA'S Jazz has definitely hit the right note and won a host of awards. Beware early examples, which were too firmly sprung for some tastes, but later models are good to drive and better to ride in while retaining cheeky looks and versatile rear seating. The range lacks a diesel, but offers a continuously variable automatic gearbox (CVT) option with pre-selected positions that are reassuring to use, while bringing all the benefits of a CVT auto's better fuel consumption.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	****
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

NISSAN NOTE



NISSAN threw the rule book away with the Note to create a partial replacement for its long-running yet unloved Almera family hatchback, while also acquiring a small MPV with a more compact stance. The result is a versatile, roomy and manageable small car with lots of clever features including a reversible boot floor that covers a spacious lower compartment. The Note's engines are also good news, with a Renault-supplied 1.5-litre turbodiesel the most desirable, for mixing power with economy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	***
Looks and image	****
Space	****
Value	****
Running costs	****
Reliability	****
Quality	****

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A6, SE 4dr 2.4 Man, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, asts, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, of player, radio, electric mirrors, 15° alloys, green, 130000 miles, S4399, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TT. Quattro. 2003. trim: leather engine size: 1800 transmission: manual no. of doors: 2, silver, 41000 miles, £13995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

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ONE, 3dr, 1x52 ucu, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, power steering, electric mirrors, air conditioning, of player, radio, twin air bags, abs, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, salt pack, yellow, 44900 miles, C8995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

L200 4life Double Cab (LEZ COMP). 100, 4ille Double Cab (LEZ COMP), 7182, remote central locking, wer steering, electric windows, setric mirrors, cd player, 16" alloys, 4, load liner.tel. 01795 430295, ack, 13000 miles, £9000,

L200, 2.5 TD, 2005, trim; leather engine size: 2500 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, silver, 40000 miles, £12331, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.1 CZ1 3dr (2006 - 1905), 04/03/2006, od player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, black, 19418 miles, £450l Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.5 odi 5dr v6 auto, 2003 silver met with black leather, 37000 miles, £9950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

SPACE STAR, 2004, abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd roof rails steering wheel rake adjustment tip computer, haag silver, 32000 miles, £4999, Masters Group Mitsuhishi Romaley Reksenham

RENAULT

RENAULT MASTER T3500, 09 2006, 2.5 dci 120 lwb hi top sold with manufactuers warranty ply lined air/con 33.000 miles fsh, £7995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

RENAULT TRAFFIC LL29 LWB, 11 2006, 2.0 tdci 115 ps 6 speed ply lined air/con white 47.000 miles fsh, £6350, Beaver Commercials, Ashford 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CLIO, Extreme 4 Dynamique 16v 3dr, gy05mgv, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, abs, air bag, traction control, aluminium silver, 16881 miles, £5295, Saunders Abbott, Sidcup, 020 8300 2450

CLIO, 1.4 Authentique Hatchback 5d, 04 2004, remote central locking, electric windows, radio/volume control on steering wheel, renault hands free phone kit, 5 speed gearbox, fully body colour, one owner service history, metallic blue, miles, 24995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

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CLIO, 1.4 Expression + Hatchback 5d 1390cc, 52 2002, remote central locking, electric windows, electric mirrors, electric sunroof, power assisted steering, winn srs, airbag, refin/conceptin extension. radio/cassette system, air conditioning, full body colour, service history, 1 owner. metallic silver, miles, £4795, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

SCENIC, EXPRESSION 1.6 AUTO, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, extreme blue, 38000 miles, £6995 Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADF)

SCENIC, ALIZE 1.6, 2000, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, mercury, 59000 miles, £3995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SCENIC. FIDJI 1.4 16V, 2003, trim cloth engine size: 1400 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, giverny green, 38000 miles, £4795, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SCENIC, GRAND DYNAMIQUE 1.5DCI, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1500 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1500 transmission: manual no. of doors: extreme blue, 5000 miles, £13295 Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SCENIC. GRAND DYNAMIQUE 1.5DCL 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1500, transmission: manual no. of doors: 1, mercury, 20700 miles, £9695, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, Linear TID 1.9, oct 2004 two previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, air remote central locking, air conditioning, radio/cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, tinted glass, adi, steering column, seat height adjuster, alloy wheels. silver metallic, 32.000 miles, 94,95, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

YARIS, 1.3 16v WTi GLS 3dr Auto [AC], 06/01/2003, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser, silver, 48500 miles, £4500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE) YARIS, T Spirit VVT-I 5dr, yk55zko, AND, 1 January 2000 illoy wheels, crystal silver, 3000 niles, £8495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA, 1.9 CDTi 16V Design [150] 5dr, 21/11/2005, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 55243 miles, 57000, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ASTRA, 1.6i 16V Life 5dr (2004 2006), 25/11/2005, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, silver, 28908 miles, £5500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494(TRADE)

ASTRA, Club 8v 5dr, 6429079, rear wasth/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, electric front windows, air conditioning, of player, radio, twin air bags, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, silver, 74100 miles, £3695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000

ASTRA TWIN TOP, 2007, cd player abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check immobiliser electric windows, star silver, 14650 miles, 211995, Pomphrey's of Stitingbourne, Stitingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRAVAN, 2007, white, 26164 miles, £6495, WJ King Vauxhall, Rochester, 01634 723723 (TRADE)

ASTRAVAN, 2005, black sapphire, 55000 miles, £4995, WJ King Vauxhall, Dartford, 01322 227581 (TRADE)

ASTRAVAN CLUB CDTI, 2007, central AS IHAVAN CLUB CDTI, 2007, cer locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check, white, 5445 miles, £7995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourn Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ASTRAVAN SE, 2008, central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check, silver, 5760 miles, £10995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

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BEETLE, 1.6 Luna 2dr, hy56shx, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, central locking, electric front windows, electric windows, adjustable steering column, power steering, automatic electric windows, power hood, cd player, radio, stereo, 16" alloys, blue 15927 miles, £9990, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

CRAFTER, CR35 MWB Hi-Root hg57cxb, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, power steering, traction control, abs, air bag, cd player, electric windows, white, 27000 miles, £11000, Clearways Commercials, noaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable paintwork, automatic electric windows, climate control, cd player, radio, stereo, met pale blue, 20718 miles, £7999, AutoPlanet Maidstone Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, 1.6 S FSI 5dr [AC], 125997127, GOLF, 1.6 S FSI dar [AC], 12599472 abs, air bag, brain air bags, side air bags, traction control, electric front windows, rear wash/ivpe, electric mirrors, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cidh upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, foding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, child locks, quick-clear screen, automatic electric windows, air conditioning, steering conditioning, steering seating conditioning, steering child locks quick-clear screen, automatic electric windows, air conditioning, steering assets with seating sea VOLVO

Maidstone, Mai 5185 (TRADE)

GOLF, SE 5dr, w825 akr, immobiliser,

GOLF, SE 5dr, wS25 akr, immobiliser remote central locking, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, head restaints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable seat, ording rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable setering column, power steering, abs, multiple airhags, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, viewing by appointment only, black metallic, 54400 miles, 25990, Kent Motovation, Maidstone, of 1622 600

Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

GOLF, GTi, e868ggu, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, 13" alloys, 'viewing by appointment only', white, 111000 miles, £595, Kent Motorvation, Maidstone, 01622 600 456 (TRADE)

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control, trp computer, abs, side air bags, twin air bags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, climate control, cd player, radio cassette, alloy wheels, silver, 43000 miles, £7990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

C70, C70 T GT, IgSSyod, remote central locking, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric windows, electric mirros, power hood, air conditioning, cd player, stren, 17" alloys, grey, 57000 miles, £6999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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\$80, 2.4 D5 SE Saloon 4d 2401cc gold, miles, £5750, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131

V70, V70 T SE Auto, oy04 yga, remote V70, V70 T SE Auto, oy64 yag, remot central locking, remote alarm, ear ear wasth/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails front fog lamps, full leather, electric seats, central amrest, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, traction control, air conditioning, climate control, of player, radio, trip computer, cruise control, rain-casing with the previous computer, cruise control, rain-casing sides, side, side, wheels, blue, 68400 miles, S6995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstad, QOS 8855. Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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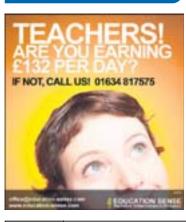


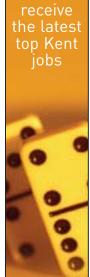
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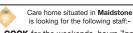
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Please note that CV's will not be considered. Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 16th January 2009.



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(22.2 hours per week) Salary: £25,092 - £28,719 pro rata

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Closing date: Friday, 23 January 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

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Ref: CFE/08/0652

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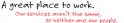
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Closing date for both posts: 15 January 2009.





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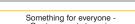
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Westwood's admirers vote with their feet

SHOPPERS have given Westwood Cross a vote of confidence in the latest survey by Business Bluprints.

Research reveals that 99 per cent of shoppers rate cleanliness at the retail centre as good or very good, 95 per cent feel the centre is safe and secure and 94 per cent value the pleasant atmosphere.

And despite worries about the economy, shoppers are spending eight per cent more this year on non-food items than last spring.

The centre is also attracting more shoppers from farther afield, in particular from Canterbury and Whitstable.

Of Thanet shoppers, 16 per cent said they also visited Bluewater, compared with 61 per cent last year.

Marketing manager Tracie Stevens said the centre was making an increasing contribution to the local economy.

Art meets commerce

A COLLABORATION between the arts and business has taken off at West Malling's Kings Hill business park.

It entails the launch of works by south east artists in the site's office buildings.

east artists in the site's office buildings.

New works will be shown every three months, preceded by a private viewing when people from the wider business community will be able to see them.

Caroline Binns, of developer Liberty Property Trust UK, said: "The aim is to brighten people's working day by creating a public of the property Trust UK, and of the property Trust UK.

ing a welcoming and stimulating environment."

Liberty founded the Rouse Kent Public Art Award with KCC for the best piece of public art in the county. The biennial award will be held this year.

Channel trade seminar

NEWCRÉATIF, a virtual design and communication agency based in Folkestone and Canterbury, held another seminar on design and communication issues for firms trading in France.

The seminar, at the Ramada Hotel, Dover, was attended by more than 25 local government and businesses delegates from both sides of the Channel.

It is one of a series of events organised by Transmanche Technology over the last 18 months. All are aimed at improving trade between companies based in Kent and northern France.

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CHEER UP: Despite the impact of the credit crunch Kent is well positioned to take advantage of the recovery and many county firms are still performing well

Our glass is half full

EVEN economic downturns have their silent majorities - more than half of companies in Kent say they are either unaffected by the current slowdown or are performing well and growing.

And a fifth are confident of a recovery in the coming months. This is proof that, while it's the public duty of the media to report what is going on, there is always another side of the coin that needs polishing.

The Financial and Business Services Survey 2008 commissioned by investment promotion agency Locate in Kent shows that almost a quarter of companies feel prospects are better for being based in Kent rather than elsewhere in the UK

When asked how the economic climate was impacting on their business, encouragingly, almost a third – 29 per cent – reported that

BY TONY PATEY

they were still performing well and growing. Just under half of respondents felt that their businesses had suffered as a result of economic downturn, and a further quarter responded that it had no impact.

Companies in the business services sector seemed to be faring better in this economic climate, with 36 per cent performing well, compared with 22 per cent in the financial sector.
The majority of respondents were realistic

about the potential consequences of the global economic crisis, with 57 per cent concerned about their business over the next two years.

However, almost a third of respondents were confident their business would grow over the

next few years.

One in five respondents felt confident about recovery in the coming months.
When asked the biggest issue that compa-

nies would face once the economic outlook improved, respondents cited fears of cash flow problems and the cost of finance, lack of client and consumer confidence, red tape and legislation and the possibility of a slow recovery in the housing market.
Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in

Kent, said: "These results are not surprising given that we cannot get away from the hard economic truths we are facing.

"However, there are some very encouraging results from this report. The fact that Kent's location and solid transport links were so positively rated gives us good reason to be optimistic about the future.

"The improved links to central London will serve the county well as it looks to leverage opportunities such as the 2012 Olympics. "Access to international markets will become

an essential lifeline for a number of companies, underlining the importance of transport links in terms of business location choice



Cassius class too much for outgunned Bay



OUTNUMBERED: Herne Bay's Stuart King (number nine) holds off a challenge in Saturday's defeat

Herne Bay 2 Erith Town 5

ANY lingering hopes Herne Bay had of a title charge in the New Year were thoroughly extinguished as they conceded five goals for the second successive game.

Erith striker Marcus Cassius was the visitors' chief destroyer, plundering a hat-trick to take him to the top of the Kent League scorers chart. Stuart King's two late goals were nothing more than consolation for a home side which dominated long passages

of play but lacked a cutting edge. The heavy defeat came a week after Bay's nine-game winning run

FOOTBALL

was brought to an end with a 5-1 loss at home to Faversham Town. Barry Morgan's side looked in

the mood to ensure the heavy defeat was just a blip, as they controlled the opening exchanges. But despite an overwhelming advantage in possession and territory, Bay were guilty of attempting to walk the ball into the net rather than testing Erith's highly-rated goalkeeper Jack Bradshaw.

Erith gradually warmed to the game and took the lead with a soft penalty on 34 minutes after Sean Bremner handballed. Cassius just beat Dan Eason from the spot.

Myrie Allen doubled the lead on the stroke of half-time and the visitors exploited gaps in the Bay defence to score three more, two for Cassius, in the second half. Stuart King scored twice late on to take his tally for the season to ten.

Defeat saw Herne Bay slip to fifth in the Kent League Premier Division, ten points behind leaders Hythe Town. Morgan and his side will now turn their attentions to progressing to cup competitions in search of silverware.

with now turn their attentions to progressing to cup competitions in search of silverware.

They host VCD Athletic this Saturday for a place in the Kent Senior Trophy semi-finals.

Crusade for play-off spot set to continue

KENT Crusaders will be looking to continue their Division Two play-off charge when the basketball season resumes this weekend.

After a slow start to the season, the Canterbury-based side hit form going into the two-week Christmas break.

the two-week Christmas break.

Back-to-back victories in Plymouth made it six wins from their last seven league games, a run which has catapulted them up to fourth in the table.

Mads Olesen's side have every chance of improving their winning sequence when they visit struggling Northampton Neptunes. It will be the Crusaders' last road trip for a month, with their next five games all at home.

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Hour LOCAL TY ONLINE



Villa boss Martin O'Neill says he would have been happy with FA Cup replay against Gills

Crunch time indoors for city hockey teams

A PLACE in the England National Indoor finals this month is up for grabs for Canterbury Ladies this weekend.

The team won two and lost two in the first half of the indoor season, played last month.

With their final four games to be played over next weekend, Canterbury will be hoping to force their way into the top four to book their place at the finals day on January 25.

top four to book their place at the mais day on January 25.

The priority for the club's men, indoor champions in 2007, will be to avoid relegation from the top flight this weekend after losing all four of their opening games.



Oystermen boss in call for consistency

FOOTBALL

BY **DAVID PRITCHARD**

WHITSTABLE Town's hopes of getting off to a fast start in 2009 were put on hold after their game against Ashford Town was called off due to a frozen Belmont pitch.

The Christmas period summed up the season so far for the Oystermen, with a handsome 5-1 win against Chipstead followed by a dreadful 3-0 defeat at Sittingbourne.

3-0 defeat at Sittingbourne.

Inconsistency has plagued the team all season and remains Town manager Marc Seager's biggest headache going into the second half of the campaign.

His biggest frustration is the team's ability to

His biggest frustration is the team's ability to win the one-off crunch games against sides around them in the Ryman South, but then fail to replicate the display week-in week-out.

to replicate the display week-in week-out.

"When we look over the last four months, when we really need a result we just seem to do enough," he said. "Against Corinthian Casuals we were bottom but put in a good performance and won. Walton Casuals we could have been bottom that day but pulled out a result, same with Chipstead, we moved up three places. Then we get into a comfort zone and you can't afford to do that.

"We have underachieved. The sound this year

"We have underachieved. The squad this year is stronger than last year and the players are disappointed with the way things have gone."

disappointed with the way things have gone."

Despite his faith in the squad to climb out of trouble in the Ryman South, the performance at Sittingbourne angered the Belmont boss, who suspected some of his line-up had overindulged during the festive season.

He said: "I don't think some of them applied themselves properly, maybe a little bit too much Christmas spirit in some cases. At this level certain things have to give way, that's what makes average players good and vice versa."

The squad were in training on New Year's Day in a bid to sharpen up for the visit of in-form Ashford, before the pitch succumbed to the weather. The postponement didn't mean they had a day off, with the players training while Seager travelled to Sussex to watch Eastbourne Town and Burgess Hill, two opponents later this month.

Bastourne fown and burgess Hill, two opponents later this month.

Burgess Hill, three places and four points better off than Whitstable, are first up this Saturday. It begins a sequence of seven successive fixtures against sides currently in the Ryman South's bottom half

 Whitstable were due to play Tilbury in the League Cup second round last night. Log on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk for the report and reaction from the game.



GOOD AND BAD: Whitstable boss Marc Seager hopes 2009 will produce a more consistent run of results after underachieving on far this season.

No Windies Test slot for young Lion Khan



KEY STROKE: Kent's Rob Key has been picked for the England Lions tour to New Zealand, along with Joe Denly and Amjad Khan

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1 Kingstonian 2 Metropolitan Police 3 Cray Wanderers

4 Sittingbourne 5 Fleet Town

6 Ashford Town 7 Dulwich Hamlet (-3) 8 Worthing 9 Walton & Hersham 10 Godalming Town

11 Merstham 11 Merstham 12 Eastbourne Town 13 Folkestone Invicta 14 Croydon Athletic 15 Whyteleafe

16 Leatherhead 17 Burgess Hill Town 18 Corinthian-Casuals 19 Chipstead 20 Whitstable Town

20 Whitstable Town 23 21 Walton Casuals 23 22 Crowboro Athletic 23

1 Hythe Town 2 Holmesdale 3 Tunbridge Wells

4 Faversham Town

6 Erith & Belvedere

7 Erith Town 8 Greenwich Borough 9 Deal Town 10 VCD Athletic

11 Croydon 12 Sevenoaks Town 13 Slade Green

14 Norton Sports 15 Beckenham Town

17 Sporting Bengal

2 AFC Sheppey 3 University of Kent 4 APM Mears

5 Otford Utd 6 New Romney 7 Guru Nanak

8 Kennington 9 Staplehurst & Mon. 10 Oakwood 16 17

KENT COUNTY LEAGUE DIVISION ONE EAST

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT seamer Amjad Khan will have to settle for a place in the Lions squad after missing out on the England tour to the West

The Denmark-born quick bowler was picked in the squad for the Test series with India after impressing while with performance programme in Abu Dhabi.

However, with Nottinghamshire seamer Ryan Sidebottom expected to be fit for the trip to the Caribbean at the end of January, ahead of the first Test in Jamaica on February 4, Khan misses out, although he will get another chance to impress with the England Lions.

Khan, together with Kent openers Joe Denly and Rob Key, have been picked in the squad for the tour to New Zealand, although off-spinner James Tredwell has not been included in the 14-man squad.

Elsewhere at the club, Kent have released eight members of their county staff as financial constraints continue to bite at the St Lawrence Ground.

The county announced earlier this month the £10 million redevelopment of their Canterbury ground could be

delayed until 2010 after a contractor pulled out as a result of the economic downturn.

Kent have conducted a review of the management structure and trimmed the staff by eight, including Mike Grantham, who was head groundsman at the St Lawrence Ground.

Kent are to install a business develop-ment department headed by Jamie Clifford, which will be responsible for the generation of all the club's commercial

Jon Fordham, as director of operations, will take full responsibility for all the club's operations, while Neil Peck, director of finance, and Graham Ford, director of cricket, complete the senior management team.

Andy Peirson has been installed as ground co-ordinator, which means he will be in charge of both pitches at Canterbury and Beckenham.

Chief executive Paul Millman said: "The last 12 months have proved extremely challenging for the club, given the uncertainty in the economy and the unforeseen delays associated with our development plans at the St Lawrence Ground. It has been necessary to take a long, hard look at every aspect of our

operation.
"The reorganisation has led to a reduction in staffing levels. Eight members of staff will be departing and I would like to thank them for all they have done for the club."

FOOTBALL

Downturn 'will not hit City hub plans'

PLANS for a community football hub on the outskirts of Canterbury are unlikely to be affected by the credit crunch, according to Canterbury City chairman Phil Knight.

But the club are looking for a new temporary home away from Bridge for the men's first team, in preparation for a second successive promotion.

The prospect of a purpose-built site capa-ble of hosting high-level nonleague football was a key rea-son for City's reformation in 2007. Last July, the city council named Ridlands Farm, to the



SEARCHING: City chairman Phil Knight says the club are looking for a new temporary home

Canterbury, as its preferred site for the hub. which would include five-a-side pitches and a gym in addition to City's new home ground.

The economic downturn has seen con-struction projects, including Kent County Cricket Club's planned redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground, delayed or scrapped. However, Knight believes the hub project will not suffer the same fate.

He said: "All the talk that has come back so far is that everything is fine. The key is the original money made available from the old stadium is in the bank, so we're starting with that cash already.

"The private investor is as keen as ever and everything I've heard from the city council is positive. We're still looking at being ready in 2011."

The club's men's first team have played

their home matches at Bridge Recreation Ground since reforming, but they could be months away from outgrowing the facili-

Following promotion last season, Dave Fairclough's side top the Kent County League Division One East going into 2009, despite their game on Saturday being called off due to a frozen pitch. If they won the league they could not go up a level with-out moving, as clubs in the Premier Division need an enclosed space with a turnstile.

"We're looking at other alternatives," Knight said. "There's a ready made site at Hersden. The reserves and youth sides will stay at Bridge, but certainly the first team will need to come away from there if we get promoted."
Weather permitting, City have a Kent

Intermediate Challenge Shield tie against Otford, at Canterbury High School, on

Money talks, although Hillerby has last word

RUGBY

-8 -24 -68

-6 -11 -14 -12 -25

Ealing 38 Canterbury 22

CANTERBURY produced a spirited display despite going down to National Three South title contenders Ealing as the season resumed after the Christmas

Frozen pitches forced five of the division's seven fixtures to be postponed on Saturday, but conditions in west London were sufficiently thawed to allow the game to go ahead.

Financial inequalities have caused a gap-ing fissure in the table, with Ealing one of three expensively assembled sides well clear of the rest.

It was always likely to be tough for Canterbury to take something from the game and they did themselves no favours by conceding two tries in the opening seven minutes.

Gert De Kock got the visitors on the score board with a penalty, but Ealing replied with three of their own to go in 21-3 up at

Spectators braving the cold might have expected the division's most prolific attack

to run up a big score in the second half, but Canterbury held their own. Good work by Mike Melford set up a try under the posts for De Kock, who converted. Ealing put the result beyond doubt with two more tries, but the visitors had the last



SPIRITED: Ealing's attacking quality proved too much for Canterbury, despite a valiant second half comeback

word with scores from Ed Roche and Dave Hillerby after the home side were reduced to 14 men. The victory sent Ealing top of the league. Canterbury remain tenth, but have a far more winnable game this Saturday, when they welcome second from bottom side Havant to Merton Lane.

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